All that and a bottle of starch: extreme ironing
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MARTLET

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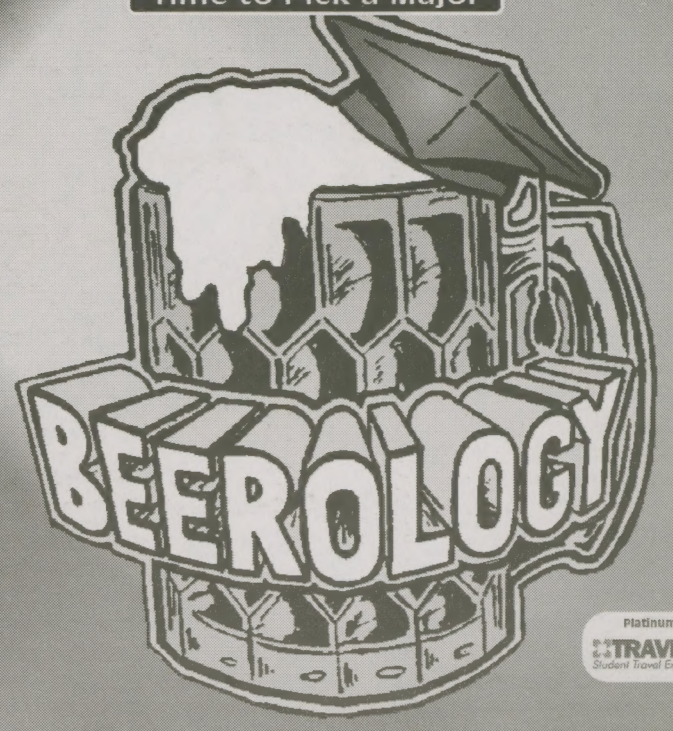

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UVic students feed 500 in need

by Matthew Gauk

A group of students from UVic's school of social work put on a huge feast last week for an estimated 500 Victorians in need.

The anti-poverty feast, held at St. John the Divine Church Hall downtown, featured live music and a wide variety of catered food. Students from one social work class decided to form a coalition as part of a class assignment and have spent the last few months preparing for the event.

"We decided that we want to bring the learning and the knowledge that we have outside of the classroom, so that we can actually help people in need rather than just giving a workshop to students," said Tiffany Hawco, a third-year student involved in the project.

Through bottle drives and bake sales the group was able to raise the $1,300 needed for the feast. Friends, family, classmates and volunteers from the community joined the original 15 students to organize the meal. Bag lunches were passed out to those who couldn't get in due to fire regulations.

"We've met so many times, put so many hours into this," said Hawco. "We did consultations with Reverend Al [Tysick of the Open Door Inner City Ministry] and with different service providers in the community, and we also consulted with people in poverty to see what they would be looking for in a feast."

The group started out with the idea of providing food, but then branched out and started looking at the structural issues surrounding poverty. The number of people in need, living in poverty and out on the streets, is connected to the welfare rates in B.C., according to Hawco.

"Food is a basic survival need," said Hawco. "Unfortunately, the government isn't providing that to many people. So many people have been cut off from welfare, for example, and many can't qualify for it."

The student group launched a letter writing campaign to Claude Richmond, the Minister of Employment and Income Assistance, and to local MLAs as part of a Raise the Rates campaign. B.C. welfare rates are currently pegged at $519 per month for a single person, $325 of which is allocated for spending on shelter.

"The welfare rates are inhumane and they need to be increased. It's nowhere near enough to have a healthy diet and to have good accommodation," said Hawco.

Welfare rates in the province were higher in the 1980s than they are now, and the fact that they have not been adjusted to take inflation into account needs to be addressed, said Hawco. According to the National Council of Welfare, a single person on welfare in B.C. received about $674 per month in 1994, in contrast to the $519 they receive today. This decrease constitutes a 22.9 per cent cut to the province's single-person welfare cheques.

And it's people in the community, Hawco said, who are the ones left to pick up the slack from these decreases. She said that politicians are so disconnected from what it is like to live in poverty that they make decisions that are oppressive.

"For me, doing the frontline work that I'm doing, I feel very frustrated at the fact that the government isn't doing what they need to be doing," she said. "I don't feel that I should have to tell the government how to do their job, but I feel that left to their own devices they will never fully address the poverty issue here in Victoria."

Reverend Al Tysick of the Open Door agreed. He said the welfare rates are tied to poverty, and that the welfare rates are actually below the poverty line.

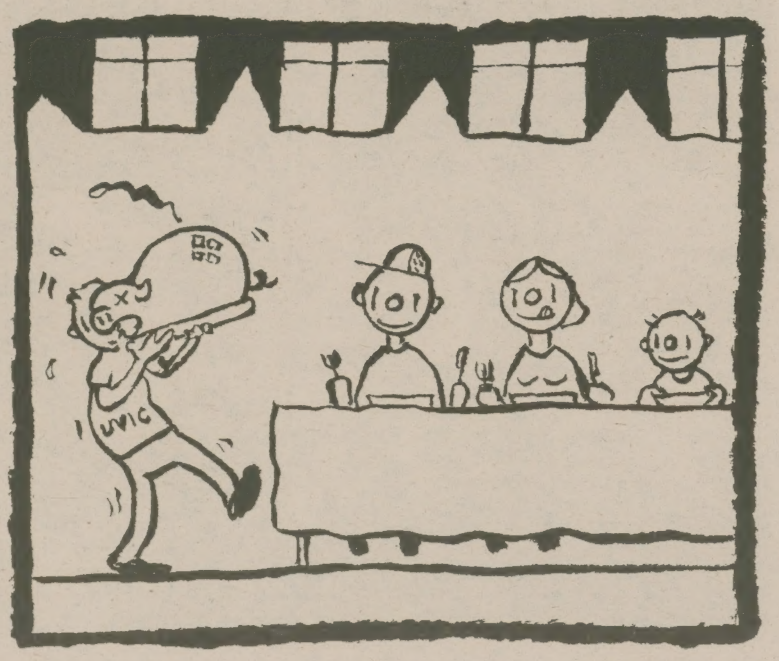
"The welfare rates are the underlying question," Tysick said. "I think they should be raised. I think it's criminal we're not giving people a hand up, a possibility to get out of poverty. We're holding their heads in the toilet bowl."

The welfare system is being run like a police state, according to Tysick, with investigations to ensure eligibility. What he wants is a system in which welfare workers can sit down with a person and see what they need to get off of welfare, and to support and encourage them.

"I see poor in an affluent society, an affluent province. In this particular city the affluence is just oozing out, when you go to View Royal and the Inner Harbour," said Tysick, mentioning that he has a tough time spotting a junk car on the road in Victoria. "And yet we treat our poor unacceptably."

The social work students will continue to work in the community individually and on practicums for the next few years. Hawco herself works for the Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition and Bridges for Women.

"I don't know if it will take this form in the future again, necessarily, but perhaps another group of social work students will take this up, or perhaps we will do it again in the future," said Hawco. "It speaks to what a group of social work students can do when we put our minds to it and work together."



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

A dinner was held at St. John the Divine Church Hall March 17.

UVSS disqualifications reversed

by David Karp

The next chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society remained a mystery as of March 21.

On March 10, chief electoral officer Ben Johnson disqualified current chair and candidate Penny Beames for campaigning too close to a polling station, while candidate Mike Waters was disqualified for receiving a third-party endorsement.

But on March 20, an electoral committee—composed of students' society (UVSS) board members Loren Husband and Ami Brosseau—overturned both disqualifications.

"After careful deliberation, the electoral committee has decided that there is insufficient evidence to accuse Mike Waters of soliciting 'official' third-party endorsement by Access UVic," read a copy of the committee's ruling leaked to the *Martlet*.

"Furthermore, Waters stopped campaigning with Carrier after three speeches because he felt that it may be interpreted as third-party endorsement."

Details on the decision to reinstate Beames were not available.

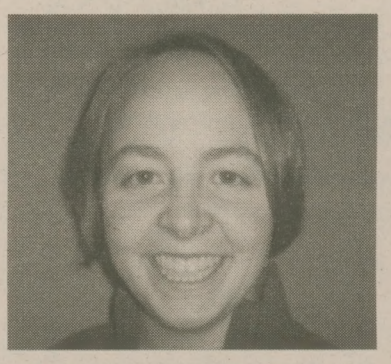
"The policies are important—they just don't warrant disqualifications [in these cases]," Husband explained after the rulings.

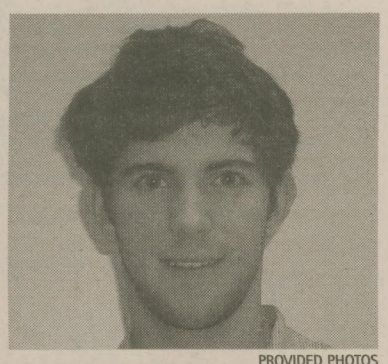
As the complainant against Beames, Waters had until March 23 to appeal the committee's decision to reinstate Beames, but said on March 22 he would not do so. "The chairperson should be decided by the voters, not by disqualification," he said.

Likewise, Beames, who filed the complaint against Waters, can appeal the decision to reinstate Waters. "I haven't decided if I'll be appealing. I have until 5 p.m. tomorrow to decide," Beames said March 21.

If there is an appeal, the final decision will go to the UVSS board of directors. Results of the vote for chairperson will not be announced until the appeal process is complete.

"I feel as though I did the best job that I could," Johnson told the *Martlet* in an e-mail. He recommended reforming election rules for future years. "Otherwise, the campaign periods of years to come may simply re-enact some of the problems which came to surface this year," he said.





PROVIDED PHOTOS

Penny Beames (left) and Mike Waters were temporarily disqualified from the race for UVSS chair March 10.

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WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Victorians gathered in Centennial Square to mark the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Protestors call for 'war no more'

by Edward Pullman

The third anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq was marked with global protests March 18, and citizens of Victoria did not hesitate to join the chorus of voices opposing American unilateralism.

Roughly 250 people gathered in Centennial Square on the sunny afternoon, and speakers included American war resister Michael Hanson and recently elected NDP MP Denise Savoie.

Since the war began in 2003, an estimated 150–200 people in the U.S. military have fled north to Canada. Hanson, a 21-year-old Minnesota native, was deployed to Iraq in January 2005. Before receiving deployment orders, Hanson was in the process of applying for conscientious objector status.

"Before we got deployment orders, I came to a realization that war and violence is wrong, so I ended up applying for conscientious objection, which basically means you're objecting to war in all forms," Hanson told the crowd of protestors. Of frustration to Hanson was the fact that he had to explain to his superiors what conscientious objection was. He had discovered the term himself through independent research.

Hanson's application was rejected in May 2005, and he was informed that he would not be promoted again. At that time, he decided to come to Canada. Returning from Iraq for a two-week break in September 2005, he secretly bought a plane ticket to Seattle, took a ferry to Victoria and applied for refugee status when he arrived.

Canada's new role in Afghanistan has also raised concern in recent months. Since January 2006, 2,200 new soldiers have been deployed there. Many of these troops are in southern Afghanistan, which has seen more violence and turmoil than Kabul, where Canadian troops were stationed earlier.

Speakers Valerie Lannon of the Victoria Stop The War Committee and Denise Savoie both brought up Canada's increasing role in Afghanistan during the protest.

"Our mission in Afghanistan has been evolving, and many Canadians are concerned about that changing role in Afghanistan," said Savoie. "Many Canadians, according to a national poll done by CTV and the *Globe and Mail*, who do support the mission in Afghanistan think Canada is still there doing peacekeeping. So there is a lot of confusion about Canada's role here."

Lannon agreed, saying that the biggest national myth Canadians buy into is that we are peacekeepers in Afghanistan.

"We're just replacing the American troops and what they're doing," she said, referring to Canada's changing role in Afghanistan. In addition, Lannon contended, military efforts to gain information from the civilian Afghan population have alienated many locals.

"A lot of aid agencies, like Doctors Without Borders and others, have either pulled out of Afghanistan or would like to object to the so-called peacekeeping role of the military [there] because it blurs the military with the peace," she said. "Then the people no longer trust the aid workers. They threaten them and they leave."

Chris Lambden, a rally participant, summed up many reasons for being at the protest.

"I'm here because I disagree with the neo-liberal agenda of war at any cost, at satisfying North America's desire to live the way we live despite the suffering of others," he said.

Worldwide, turnout at anti-war protests in larger metropolitan areas was lower than expected.

Organizers for the protest in London, U.K. were hoping to see around 100,000 marching in the streets, but were disappointed to see only about 15,000 make it out to demonstrate.

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The university's budget framework was approved by the board of governors March 21. Highlights include a two per cent tuition increase, a 20 per cent increase in parking fees and more money for student financial aid.

Tuition

Domestic undergraduate tuition will increase to $4,412 from $4,325 while graduate tuition will rise to $4,582 from $4,492.

Tuition for international undergrads will rise from $13,995 to $14,274. International grad students will pay $5,453, up from $5,346.

Parking

The price of parking passes will rise by 20 per cent this year, bringing the annual cost of parking a car on campus to $302.40.

Financial aid

In a bid to remain in the top 20 per cent of Canadian universities in terms of student financial assistance, UVic plans to provide an additional $430,000 in student aid.

Tseycum First Nation searches for lost ancestors

by Micah Luxen

Tseycum First Nations people on Vancouver Island are fighting to reclaim their ancestry, lost in a time when pillaging sacred burial mounds was a profitable business.

"These people dug up our gravesites and they took our people away. They didn't even ask us."

Chief Vern Jacks spoke of his grandmother's astonishment when she first told him about how archeologists had robbed Tseycum gravesites in the middle of the 19th century. She passed that anger on to her grandson, who is currently leading 144 people from the Tseycum Nation in an international search for the stolen remains of their ancestors.

It was 1854 when American-born archeologist Harlan Ingersoll Smith began searching for First Nations gravesites on Vancouver Island and selling the remains to museums for $5 a skull and around $10 for a full skeleton. Remains identified as Tseycum presently rest in New York's American Museum of Natural History, as well as museums in Chicago, Copenhagen, London and Germany.

"They don't belong in little boxes in museums, thousands of miles away," said Cora Jacks, another member of the Tseycum Nation, and Vern Jacks's wife. "We have a close tie with the spirits of our ancestors and a part of their spirits are with the bones. Often, what has transpired with my grandmother and great grandmother still affects me and my grandchildren."

Years ago, the Tseycum did not lay their dead six feet underground. "They were buried in a small dip in the ground and then covered with a huge bolder; that way, the animals wouldn't get at them," Cora Jacks said.

HARLAN SMITH PHOTO

This photo, taken in the late 19th century by archeologist Harlan Ingersoll Smith, depicts a Tseycum First Nations grave cairn. Before European contact is was customary for the Tseycum to bury their dead under heaps of stones, but Smith and others robbed many of the grave sites for profit.

In addition, the Tseycum people were not buried at central gravesites. The Tseycum were transient, moving all over North Saanich and the Gulf Islands to harvest whatever they needed.

"If someone would happen to pass away beside a creek, then that's where they would be laid to rest," said Cora Jacks.

"In my research, I'm finding that at that time, a lot of the anthropologists had the belief that 'if we take away their culture, their funerary objects . . . then we'll get rid of their culture and we'll get rid of these heathens.'"

Vern Jacks agrees. "They must have been afraid of First Nations and thought 'We'd better dig them up and study them.' We're not artifacts. Even the art branch calls us an artifact after so many years buried, but we're not."

The Tseycum people are now taking the necessary steps to get their ancestors back. After five years of research and a visit to New York, the Jackses have learned that the American Museum of Natural History's policy states that it does not have the right to keep ancestral remains, funerary objects or sacred objects.

To the couple's benefit, archeologists kept meticulous notes, marking which graves they robbed and where they were located. In some cases, they would draw a sketch map of the location.

"The New York Museum of Natural History is more than willing to work with us," said Cora Jacks. "When we gave them the evidence, it was not only evidence from Vancouver Island, it was also their own evidence, which would be pretty hard to dispute. . . . It's up to them now to say 'They're yours.' We're quite hopeful."

Once the museum determines that the bones were excavated from Vancouver Island, Tseycum elders and the Jackses will perform a ceremony in New York, bringing the remains to be laid to rest at home, once again.

Even today, however, the Tseycum face the challenge of preserving sacred places for their ancestors. There's been recent talk of putting a sewer line through the same area where many Tseycum are buried.

"We're accommodating other people," said Vern Jacks. "If a sewer line needs to go through and they run into a grave, we have to move our people. That's not going to happen any more with Tseycum, with me as the leader."

He went on to say that if the government would involve First Nations in their meetings, the people could express their values and concerns.

"When we talk about gravesites and our ancestors, they kind of look the other way," he said. "There's no belief or spirituality involved, which they need to be educated upon."

On March 27, the Jackses will present their "Journey Home" at Camosun College's Gibson Auditorium (Young 216) at 7:30 p.m. They would also like to invite the public to a fundraising dinner on May 27 at 5:30 p.m., which will feature a traditional Tseycum feast, song, dance and arts and crafts for auction. Proceeds will go towards retrieving the bones of their ancestors.
For more information, e-mail coast.salish.united@shaw.ca.

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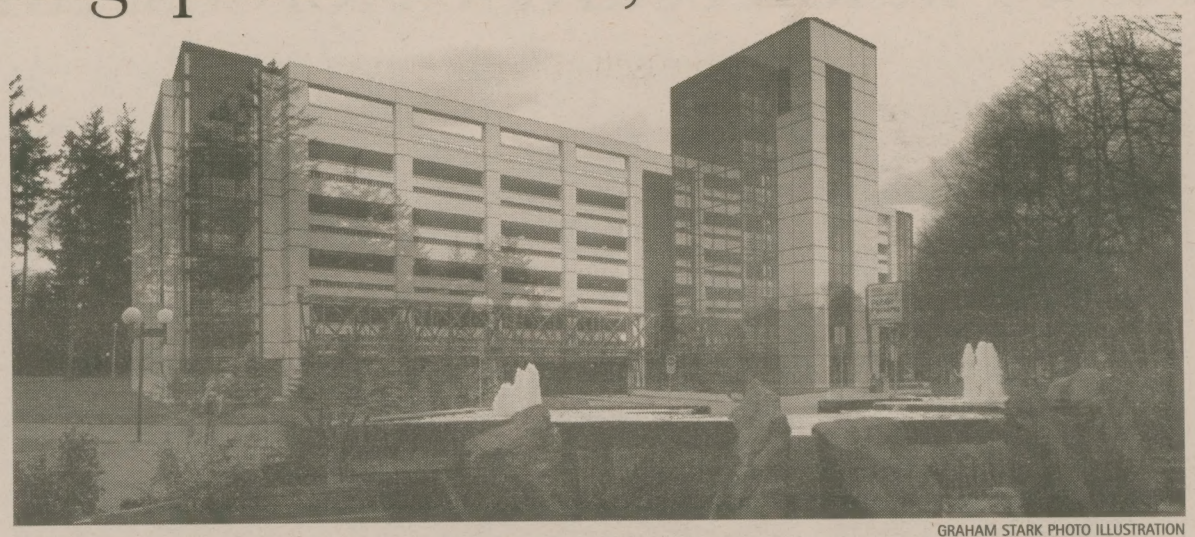
No new parking spaces at UVic, at least for the time being

by Jessica Smith



GRAHAM STARK PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

UVic could look like this someday if the campus keeps growing and municipal bylaws force it to construct more parking spaces.

The success of UVic's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program has helped the university avoid having to build an expensive parkade on campus—at least for the time being.

At a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 20, the Saanich town council voted 4–2 in favour of a motion to grant UVic a 100 per cent variance from a bylaw that would have required the university to create 254 parking spaces for the new science building, which is to be built by 2008 between the Elliott Building and Ring Road.

The bylaw regulates how many off-street parking spaces the university must have per square metre of floor space, but some council members acknowledged that it might be outdated, especially in light of the fact that 25 to 35 per cent of parking stalls at UVic are vacant at peak times.

Councillor Robert Gillespie, who has lived in Saanich for 75 years, cautioned the council and the university about being prepared for the fast rate of change he has seen in his lifetime. He said TDM and the parking variance may be a solution for now, but voted for the motion, "for the last time," and characterized it as a solution that skirts the real issues of the situation.

Councillor Jackie Ngai echoed Gillespie's sentiment, and said several times that UVic should choose "short-term pain against long-term gain" over the reverse, and voted against the total variance of the bylaw without any further conditions.

The university has eight new buildings planned for construction in the next few years. When they are completed the university will be more than 700 parking spaces short of the bylaw requirements.

UVic was also granted a complete exemption for the 235 spaces the bylaw required for the new residence buildings built in 2003. One of the conditions of that agreement was a memorandum of understanding, in which UVic promised to fund a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. The program was meant to encourage the use of more sustainable methods of transportation on campus, such as biking, bussing, carpooling and car sharing.

Neither the Saanich town council nor the UVic community want high traffic around campus, and all of the councillors, including the two that voted against this version of the variance, voiced their support of UVic's TDM efforts. A few credited the program as their number one reason for granting the motion.

While UVic and Saanich Council support the program, both groups acknowledge that the effectiveness of the TDM program is yet to be seen.

Only parking spaces for the science building were discussed at the Monday night meeting, and UVic's extensive plans for development still leave the possibility of a parkade on the table. The hesitation of a few council members suggested that any future variances would be more difficult to come by.

But, for the time being, the TDM program is far less expensive than building additional parking spaces. UVic has spent about $300,000 on the program since its introduction in 2005, and Tracy Corbett, director of campus planning and sustainability, promised the town council that funding would continue. After the meeting, she explained that only the students who drive—roughly one out of every two students—will pay for it.

"Parking—all future parking and the TDM program—are paid for through parking fees and through enforcement fees," explained Corbett. "Even if we did ever have to go to a future parkade, it would not raise student tuition."

Parking spaces are more expensive than they might seem. Corbett priced out the individual spaces in a potential parkade that would hold around 600 cars, and found that each space would cost between $18,000 and $20,000—meaning the entire structure could cost as much as $12 million. The UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP), who also addressed the council, offered its own estimation, which found that the cost for each space could be as high as $27,000.

After the town council meeting, UVSP members discussed the outcome. They wondered how the high cost of parking could not affect tuition at all.

"Fundamentally, however many millions of dollars it costs, [the money has] got to come from somewhere, or could be spent somewhere else," said UVSP member Jamie Biggar.

Students get involved

The UVSP collected 300 signatures during the week before the meeting supporting a 100 per cent variance of the bylaw. Twenty-five per cent of the signatories identified themselves as regular drivers.

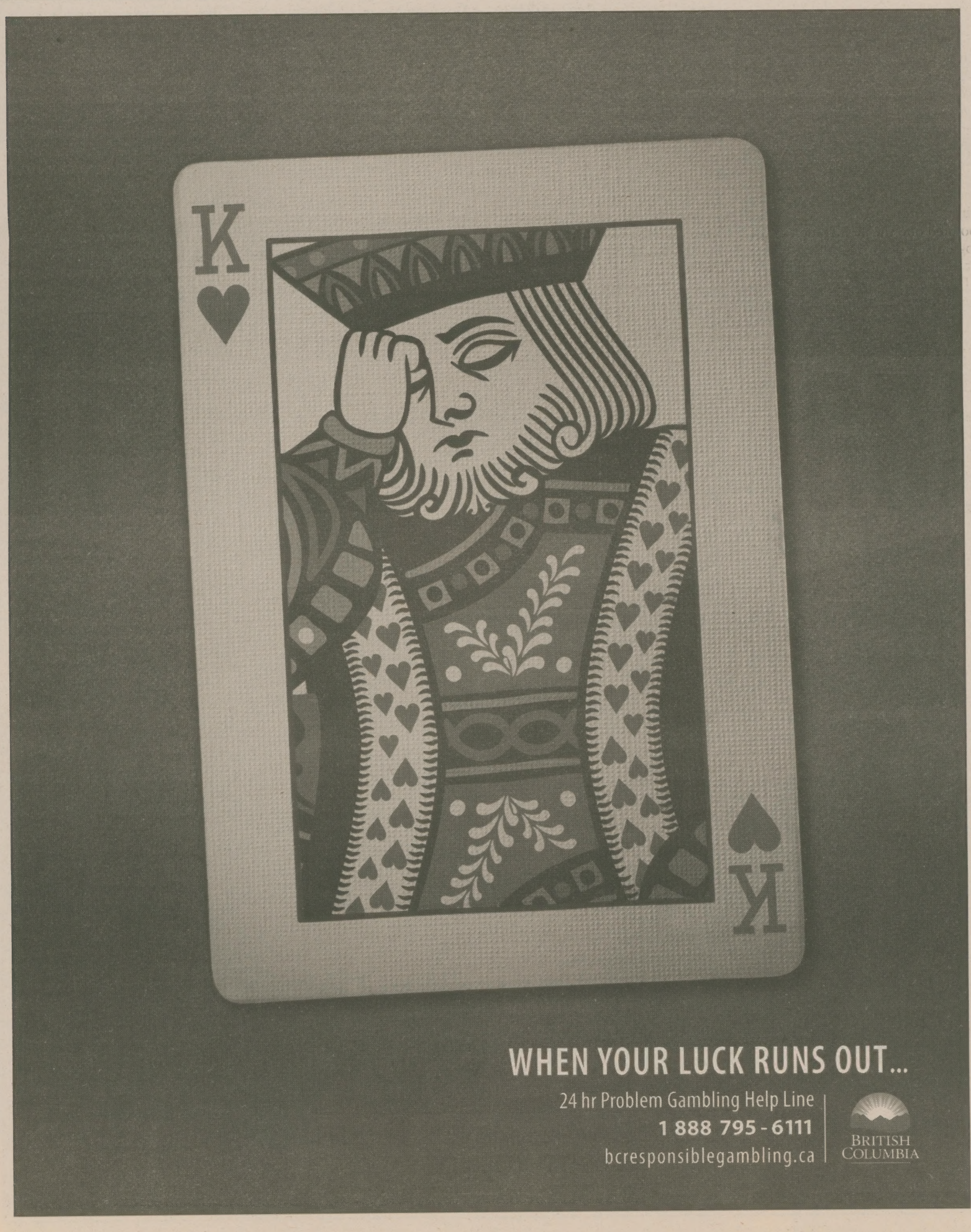
In her speech to the Saanich City Council, Andrea Rideout, the TDM and climate change co-ordinator for the UVSP, explained that this means many students, not just bikers, walkers and transit users, are against building a parkade on campus.

CORRECTIONS

In the March 16 article, "Disqualifications could seat Akouri as UVSS chair," we mistakenly stated that third-party endorsements for candidates are grounds for dismissal from a UVSS election according to the UVSS electoral policy manual. While third-party endorsements are prohibited by the policy, no particular discipline or action is recommended.

Also in that article, we mistakenly interpreted a quote from Pavel Boubnov, president of Access UVic, as saying, "Neither I, nor our director, [nor] our official spokesperson, has endorsed one candidate or another at any time." The quote should have read, "Neither I, nor our director, our official spokesperson, has endorsed one candidate or another at any time."

We apologize for the errors.



Jailed environmentalist launches hunger strike

Tre Arrow maintains his innocence and considers himself a political prisoner

by Kate Webb

Sitting inside his maximum-security jail cell at Victoria's Wilkinson Prison, a man who has been labelled an "eco-terrorist" by the American FBI can hear muffled shouts of support from the crowd gathered outside.

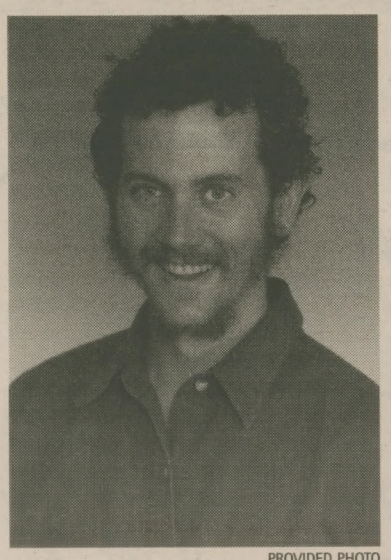
A vigil composed of about 30 people is being held in honour of inmate Tre Arrow, marking the two-year anniversary of his incarceration and the beginning of the 24-day hunger strike he is about to embark on. By the end of his strike he will have starved himself one day for every month he has been imprisoned so far.

"We love you Tre!" he hears his fans shout. He says prison is "a bit like high school, just more intense."

"Please join me in solidarity in this 24-day hunger strike," he urged his supporters in a letter released prior to the March 13 vigil. "Join me for one, seven, 10, or the entire 24 days. In doing so, you will not only be supporting me, but we'll be calling attention to the ubiquitous suffering taking place here in Canada, and around the world."

Arrow's support comes mainly from environmentalists who believe his claim of innocence in the 2001 crimes he is accused of. He is currently wanted in the U.S. for ties to an incident in which three logging trucks and three gravel trucks were destroyed by explosions created by milk jugs filled with gasoline. A stick of incense was used for a fuse.

Three environmentalists have plead guilty to causing the incident's $250,000 worth of damage and were given significantly reduced sentences for testimony that implicated Arrow. Arrow entered the FBI's most-wanted list and fled



PROVIDED PHOTO

Tre Arrow

to Victoria as a fugitive in 2002.

In 2004 he was caught shoplifting a pair of bolt-cutters from Canadian Tire and sent to jail. Since then he has been a high-profile inmate at Wilkinson Prison and is currently awaiting a possible extradition to the U.S., where he faces charges of conspiracy and major arson. If convicted, Arrow, who changed his legal name from Michael Scarpitti in 2001, could face up to 80 years behind bars in the U.S.

"They're making an example of me—that's exactly what the FBI and the U.S. government are doing," he said.

Arrow feels he will not receive a fair trial back in Oregon, where the crimes he is accused of were committed, and insists his persecution is not about the burnt trucks as much as it is about his history of environmental activism. In fact, he pointed out, the incineration of the logging trucks likely caused a grotesque amount of pollution.

Despite these claims, Arrow has been featured on *America's Most Wanted*.

During the July 2005 Supreme Court of British Columbia extradition hearing, the judge ruled that the term "eco-terrorist" was not to be used during legal proceedings. A similar ruling was made in the U.S. during the trial of Jacob Sherman, Arrow's co-accused and one of three men convicted of the crimes, Judge James Redden stated that "the term 'terrorist' is not to be used in reference to this case or the defendants."

However, several newspapers, including the *Vancouver Sun* and *Times Colonist*, have used the term explicitly to refer to Arrow in their headlines.

Josia, a close friend of Arrow's who attended the March 13 vigil and asked that her last name be withheld, described this phenomenon as "character assassination," and protested "the attempt to make an example out of [Arrow] by criminalizing dissent."

In July 2005, the B.C. Supreme Court approved the U.S. request to extradite Arrow.

However, the ruling is currently subject to appeal, and Arrow's lawyer has indicated that they will appeal the decision. Even if the appeal is rejected, Canada's Justice Minister will still have to approve the U.S. request before the extradition is carried through.

This will not be the first time Arrow's beliefs have incited him to take a hunger strike: upon his arrival at the Victoria penitentiary, his requests to be served with a strict raw vegan diet were denied. By the end of three months, Arrow weighed just 81 pounds and had to be hospitalized. The prison has since provided him with his preferred diet.

Arrow considers himself a political prisoner, but maintains that he is more concerned about the conditions facing other political prisoners around the world than his own.

"I know the conditions of my incarceration could be worse," he said in his letter to supporters. "My heart goes out to all those suffering behind prison walls around the world, like Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, Attica."

-With files from Spencer Kelly

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Supporters of American environmentalist Tre Arrow gathered outside Wilkinson Prison March 13 to commemorate the two-year anniversary of his imprisonment in Canada.

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Editorial

The delicate art of parking

So parking fees on campus are going up again.

The 40 per cent increase in parking fees last year caused some pain to wallets, even though the cost of parking at UVic remained among the lowest amongst the country's universities. Another increase—this time 20 per cent, or $50.40—has been approved for the coming academic year, bringing the cost of an annual pass for cars to $302.40.

Parking woes haven't just been limited to money. The topic even came up in the UVSS elections, when members of one slate called for a solution to the "rapidly increasing problem of parking"—by which they seemed to be calling on the university to build a parkade.

It's something the university has also recognized as a potential solution to parking problems. As the number of students increases, demand for parking spaces will also go up. And as the campus grows and more buildings are constructed to accommodate all those new students, it's likely those smooth paved areas are going to become potential building sites, stealing away even more parking spaces. Should there be a space crunch in the future, building up—instead of spreading out—is a good way to increase density.

But for the time being, space isn't a problem, not even in the parking lots: Recent surveys by the university's transportation demand management group found between 25 and 35 per cent of spaces were open during peak daytime hours. That means of the 4,600 parking spaces on campus there are more than 1,000 open at any given time.

The good spots go early in the day, relegating latecomers to trek from the far-flung corners of the campus parking lots.

But the campus needs more parking like it needs more bunnies. What the university needs to do is convince people not to drive to campus. So far, they seem to be doing not a bad job.

The number of parking passes sold this year is down from the previous year by 13 per cent, from 5,782 permits in 2004 to 5,058 permits in 2005. Employee bus pass sales are up and student bus ridership has increased 14 per cent since 2004. More than half of the campus population (52.9 per cent) carpools, rides their bikes, walks or uses transit to get to the university—in other words, they don't drive alone in their cars to campus.

The university can't take all the credit (those pesky rising fuel costs might have also played a role) but it's on the right track—out of necessity, it seems.

A study by facilities management identified the need for approximately 2,300 additional parking spaces if the university were to grow at two per cent over the next 15 years.

The cost for the proposed parking spaces? Somewhere between $5.5 million and $69 million, depending on whether they are surface parking lots, above ground or below ground.

And as the department points out, those figures do not include costs for real estate, planning, financing, opportunity loss (using the land for building education or research facilities), storm-water management, lighting, or maintenance, staffing and administration of parking services.

According to UVic's budget framework, operating expenses and equipment and capital improvements are expected to cost nearly $2 million next year.

The burden of paying for parking falls to those who use it. Parking fees and fines, not tuition or other university money, covers the cost of parking facilities. With the number of parking spaces actually decreasing (thanks to the new social sciences and math building, which is being built on Lot D) and the number of students increasing, demand for spaces will multiply.

The university will have to do more to discourage drivers in order to keep demand at a manageable level. The result? Expect parking fees to increase again. Don't like it? Well, you could always try the bus, or heaven forbid, get some exercise and ride a bicycle.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

Thumbs Up
To Ashley MacIsaac for his bid to run for leader of the Liberal Party. He admits that he's always relied on sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll to sell tickets, and I'm pretty sure this is exactly what Liberals need to get their party re-started.

Thumbs Down
To campus bunny-love. Everyone's getting laid but me.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | "LOTS" OF PARKING

HEY, I'M STILL LOOKING FOR A SPOT ... DON'T START THE PROTEST WITHOUT ME.
PARKING LOT FULL
SAY NO TO PARKING LOTS
STOP CAMPU
DEVEL NT

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Public-private hybrid OK

I would like to clarify a common misconception that many Canadians have that this particular article exemplifies.

Most Canadians assume that private health care must mean health care similar to that of the United States, where you have to pay private health insurance and getting sick could bankrupt you. While that is certainly true for the United States, what Ries fails to mention is that while the United States is the only industrialized country not to offer universal health care, Canada is one of only three that forbids the private sector any access—the other two are North Korea and Cuba, by the way.

The remaining industrialized countries, including the European ones that he mentions, have public-private hybrid systems that can be extremely effective. In some cases, these systems actually cost less per capita than our system and provide better results. This type of pigeonhole argument (either our system or the U.S. system) serves no purpose other than to stifle debate about what is arguably the best option to save our public healthcare system.

-Aaron Barlow

Porn cover a disgrace

I am writing with a concern about the March 9 *Martlet* cover. When I picked up the issue, I did not give second thought to what was on the cover . . . but upon further inspection, I noticed something utterly horrific. As an art student, I would like to bring attention to your use of orange and blue. When you illustrate anything with these two contrasting colours, you must be careful! The vivid blue that you chose to accent your title page is, in my opinion, highly offensive when paired with such a fair colour of orange.

Please remember, there are young aspiring artists out there, and you must take into consideration how such a title page may offend them. Red and violet would have been a more aesthetically pleasing PG-rated combination.

-Brittany Wiens

Clarifications

I would like to clarify that the title of the letter I wrote to the *Martlet*, "Shame on You" (March 9) was not the one I gave it ("Armed With (mis)Understanding"), and was changed by the *Martlet* without my permission. This is important to clarify, as I believe my letter has been misinterpreted, and it is reflected in last week's Matthew Greeno letter and Erik Haensel's article.

As a member of the Armed With Understanding committee, who co-sponsored the event, I am partly responsible for this event, and such a title would suggest that I am not only trying to evade my responsibility, but cast shame on those who organized this event.

Haensel said that my comments were "an attempt to focus on Elmer rather than what he was discussing." He is absolutely right. I cannot debate with Haensel on the actual situation in Palestine, as I would probably agree with most of what he has to say. As a guest to this university, Elmer (and consequently the organizers) had a responsibility to be respectful towards the audience members and their opinions. Pointing fingers and yelling things like "Get lost!" and "I know the kind of shit you guys do!" is not being responsible.

-Rafael Scarnati

Election ripe with absurdity

As an ardent civil libertarian and member of the Victoria Civil Liberties Association I was beside myself with disgust at the manner in which the democratic vote of students in the UVSS election has been usurped by the chief electoral officer in what amounts to banana-republic electioneering. To disqualify two of three candidates for Chairperson on what can only be described as trumped-up charge' is an absurd travesty of democracy and is a slap in the face to all those who bothered to vote.

The actions of the chief electoral officer have disenfranchised the electorate and made a shameful mockery of the attempts by the UVSS to encourage voter turnout. This issue transcends partisanship. The general apathy of students towards the fruit-cart that is the UVSS has been dramatically vindicated. The perception of fraud was piled on top of clear ineptitude with the decision to conceal the democratic will of the electorate by withholding the vote count of the chair ballots, a move of which the only apparent justification can be to cover-up the obvious disenfranchisement of voters.

The UVSS board of directors must move quickly to restore the integrity of the election process. It is not too late to salvage the situation, if ethical action is taken quickly to restore the democratic integrity of the election process.

-Derek Madson

Porn not like crack

I was annoyed by David Karp's anti-pornography opinion piece in the *Martlet* ("The problem with pornography" March 16).

He cited violent pornography and child porn as though they were commonplace elements of porn, although both are fringe elements and not indicative of most porn.

Through his quotation from the American Family Association, Mr. Karp also suggests that teenagers who watch pornography "grow up with unrealistic, often morbid, ideas of what to expect from sexual relationships." Most porn may indeed provide an unrealistic portrayal of sex, but that is precisely why people watch and enjoy it. Accurately depicting real-life sex is not the purpose of most porn, although if that is what you are searching for, there are various films that aim to do just that. I argue that although pornography may be inaccurate, it provides information about the human body that is otherwise unavailable without prior personal experience and I hold that it improves the variety and quality of sex for many.

For many people, sex is not something sacred and private, and they have the right to as much porn as they want. The comparison of pornography to crack and magic mushrooms is ridiculous; neither have anything in common with pornography, other than being demonized by conservatives.

-Wiley Samland

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Many taunts are doubly insulting

Try adding a little creativity to your jibes

by Briony Smith

In the March 9 issue of the *Martlet* story "Oscars' finale a swift kick to the crotch" I referred to director Paul Haggis as an "idiot savant." This comment prompted Allister Howe's letter in last week's paper, which stated that the phrase was "very disrespectful towards actual savants."

It was indeed disrespectful, and a rash, thoughtless word choice that I regret using. But Howe's letter provides a great opportunity to address the many kinds of negative language that slag more than the person you're lipping off.

Calling someone retarded or a retard—as a synonym for stupid—conveys persons with a developmental or mental disability as inherently stupid or useless, instead of differently abled. Even such common adjectives as crazy are troublesome, as they cast people who suffer from mental disease in a negative light.

Racism creeps into our everyday discourse, too. There are many ethnicities that people feel are shrewd bargainers and will do anything to screw you—to "jew someone" and to be an "Indian giver" are clearly slurs against Jewish and Aboriginal people, respectively, but did you know "being gypped" out of something comes from Gypsy?

In contrast, the slew of insults that come from gender and sexual orientation have an obvious genesis, but the connotations are just as damning to equality.

Despite the many pleasurable features of oral sex, calling a man a cocksucker is one of the ultimate insults, due to societal fear of homoerotic activity. Even the smallest of infractions against capital-m Manhood might get you called a fag.

Labelling something as gay—synonymous with stupid, annoying, or troublesome—is extremely common among today's younger generations, even among those who know it is wrong or have gay friends.

These common insults continue to cast gay people as aberrant second-class citizens, similar to the way that negro or nigger (such as "nigger-lover" or "negro music") were used by white people to show contempt for African-Americans.

Another common synonym for homosexual is sissy, a word often thrown at cowards or people who don't fit into a society-appropriate male stereotype.

More often, female-associated words, such as pussy and bitch, are used to insult men perceived as weak, implying that powerless men are as useless as, well, women. Those who show courage have balls.

Cunt comes in handy for someone you really don't like and you can call a lazy silly person a boob or a tit, but using comparison to often-sexual body parts to denounce someone isn't restricted to females, either. Pricks and dicks are arrogant unpleasant people, and so are assholes. Casting these parts of the body in such a negative light casts sex in a negative light, enforcing the sex-negative conditioning that our genitals—especially women's—are shameful and dirty.

Shame comes into play again with sexual words such as slut and whore. Even though they are sometimes bandied playfully about by young women these days, the fact remains that the words imply that a woman who enjoys sex—or makes the choice to sell sex—is wrong, while "pornographic" is used to describe only the most hideous of images.

We may think that because we don't use racial slurs or lob "cocksucker" at people, we get off scot-free—but ableism, racism, heterosexism, sexism, and sex-negativity are present in so much of our language that becoming more inventive and less oppressive in the way we talk—and insult—is absolutely necessary.

Future doesn't look bright for Iraq

Under-equipped and poorly trained army thrown into the middle of a civil war

by Clarke Ries

"It is unfortunate that we are in civil war. We are losing each day an average of 50 to 60 people throughout the country, if not more. If this is not civil war, then God knows what civil war is." This quote is from former Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who, of all the people involved in the Middle Eastern shitstorm formerly known as Iraq, probably has the least to lose by being honest.

I'm sure the recriminations will fly in the coming months when things get even bloodier. As more Iraqis begin to suspect that the United States does not have the manpower to defend them from widespread ethnic violence or stop them from committing it, central authority in Iraq is going to go from a shameful facade to entirely nonexistent.

The reason things are quickly turning into a very unfunny joke has everything to do with the demographics of the Iraqi people. The northern third of the country is Kurdish, who make up about 20 per cent of the population. Throughout the last century the Kurds have rebelled several times in attempts to gain their independence. Since the start of the American occupation, the Kurds have essentially seceded from Iraq along with most of the oil, and everyone's been too busy fighting insurgents and fixing what's left of the country to do anything about it.

Then there are the Sunnis. Although they comprise almost 85 per cent of the Muslims in the Middle East, they're only 20 per cent of the population of Iraq. Because Saddam Hussein was a Sunni, they received special privileges under his regime, effectively becoming an elite minority in Iraq. Almost all the high-profile violence in Iraq takes place in the four provinces occupied by the Sunnis, who are considered to be the backbone of the insurgency.

The 60 per cent majority in the country are the Shiites, who, thanks to an election boycotted by the Sunnis and swamped by Kurds seeking the political influence long denied to them, now effectively control half the government. As insurgent terrorism of civilians and Shiite mosques grows, many Shiites have begun to kill Sunni civilians in revenge, which leads to the situation right now: civil war.

With the recent British announcement that they would be withdrawing their troops, the Americans now form the only combat-effective force in Iraq, and they realize that if they want to avoid a 21st century version of the Saigon evacuation, they have to change that.

The only way the situation will stabilize is if they can train an Iraqi army and police force worthy of the name to fill most of the functions that require not just technology, but also reliable men on the ground. On that front, the situation is bleak. Very bleak.

The Iraqi army was dissolved by the coalition following the capture of Baghdad. Essentially, the Americans fired the 400,000 Iraqis who had the biggest weapons and knew how to use them best. Many soldiers went straight from the army into the insurgency, bringing with them a whole encyclopedia's worth of knowledge on how to fight a guerrilla war. Now the army is being rebuilt from scratch as the Americans recognize it as the only institution that could conceivably put down the insurgency.

Unfortunately, only one battalion out of 230,000 soldiers is rated Level 1, meaning it is able to plan, execute, and maintain counter-insurgency operations with no help whatsoever.

Despite being totally unprepared, the under-equipped, under-trained Iraqi army was thrown into some of the roughest combat zones in Iraq directly following basic training, resulting in chronic desertion rates and a consensus among the troops that the Americans considered them expendable.

Indeed, more than one American trainer has told reporters of fears that at any given moment the ill-equipped, barely trained, ethnically divided army won't disintegrate into militias and roving gangs of gunmen.

Under the circumstances, the future of the Iraqi people looks anything but bright.

New admission fees spark controversy

Royal Roads should be able to maintain their grounds without charging the community

by Chris Bennett

At another university, not far from here, a battle is brewing. Without adequate public consultation and giving only six weeks' advance notice, Royal Roads University has announced plans to fence off and charge the public $12 admission to a portion of the Hatley Park campus in the summer and $6 in the winter.

These historic grounds, including formal Italian and Japanese gardens, will be enclosed by a large wire fence. This has caused a stir amongst both students and members of the public.

In a recent press release, Nancy Arsenault of Royal Roads University's newly formed Tourism and Outreach division, provided financial justification for the move, saying, "We don't receive government funding to fulfill our stewardship responsibilities. This means we have to be innovative in generating revenues to protect the site as we continue to share Hatley Park with our community."

Share Hatley Park with our community? How is charging $12 for something that the community has previously enjoyed for free "sharing"? Does anyone else see the irony in this statement? A further example of this sharing attitude is the increase of 500 per cent in the cost to tour the castle and museum (from $3 to $15, or $70 for a five-member family).

This sprit of generosity puts access out of reach to all but the well-heeled.

What Ms. Arsenault fails to mention is that in return for stewardship responsibilities, the university receives the use of these federally (Department of National Defence) owned lands and buildings for $1 per year. This amounts to a massive subsidy.

Surely this university, like UVic, can be expected to pay for the maintenance of these buildings from their operating budget. They use all the heritage buildings (including the historic castle) for lecture halls, offices, etc.

They also have other sources of maintenance revenue. Between 2001 and 2004, the university received $3.6 million in federal funding specifically for maintenance of the heritage buildings. The filming of movies (including X-Men 3) brings in revenue, as does the beautiful campus, which is a drawing card for students from around the world.

While collecting petitions at Royal Roads this weekend, my wife and I spoke to more than 100 people—students, alumni, tourists and Victoria residents.

Many of these people were there because they had heard of the fees and, in the words of one visitor, "I'm coming to say goodbye!" More than 90 per cent polled said that they would not be back if the admission fee is put into effect. The public has enjoyed access to these lands for more than a decade. Most people we talked to felt it was a shame that part of the campus would now be effectively off limits.

The high entrance fee and cavalier attitude with which this is being carried forward smack of commercialism and elitism. Support for this is found in the story of The Friends of Hatley Park. These unpaid volunteers worked in the gardens, raised money for maintenance, and established and ran the castle museum. About a year ago, with no opportunity for discussion, they were told they were no longer needed.

Limiting access to publicly owned lands at a public university sets a very dangerous precedent that we must not allow to happen. What will be next—$15 to smell the rhododendrons in UVic's Finnerty Gardens or perhaps a $3-per-bunny petting fee?

Martlet Photo Contest 2006 Winners

On the cover:

Untitled
Photo by Erik Custer

The contrast between the monolithic rock mountains and the fluid aerials of the human creates a sense of freedom. Happy spring!

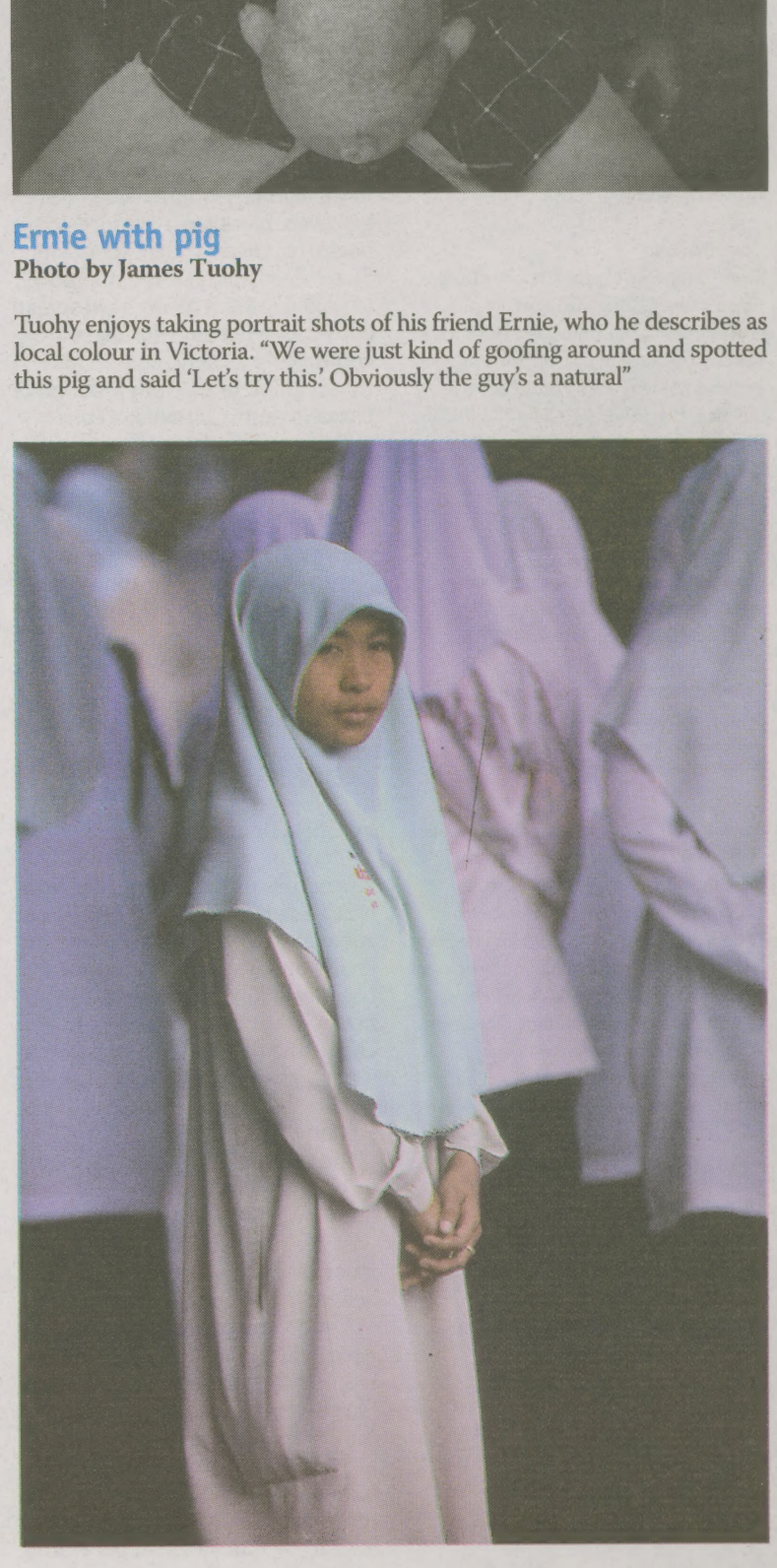
Get your war on
Photo by Wesley Scott

The figure is a Stikfa "alpha male military" action figure and the M-60 grenade shell is a hollowed-out casing recovered from the Cu Chi tunnels in Vietnam, left over from the war and turned into a lighter holder.

"I guess I was trying to make social commentary on how there exists a large number of people who get a hard-on at the thought of war and violence and killing in general, namely right-wing Americans who are all gung-ho about the marine corps. Inadvertently, I was probably making jest at the fact that a lot of soldiers are sex-starved while in service."

Late
Photo by Benjamin Moore

Amidst a jostling, expectant crowd, a commuter in Japan is captured in a reflective pause—perhaps asking himself, "Where am I really going?"



Ernie with pig
Photo by James Tuohy

Tuohy enjoys taking portrait shots of his friend Ernie, who he describes as local colour in Victoria. "We were just kind of goofing around and spotted this pig and said 'Let's try this.' Obviously the guy's a natural"

Muslim girl, Pattani
Photo by Chandler Vandergrift

In the last two years, over 1,200 people have been killed in a separatist insurgency in Thailand's far south. Here a schoolgirl in Pattani, Thailand abstains from singing the Thai national anthem, in protest over the alleged mistreatment of the Muslim minority by the state. The photo was taken in August 2005.

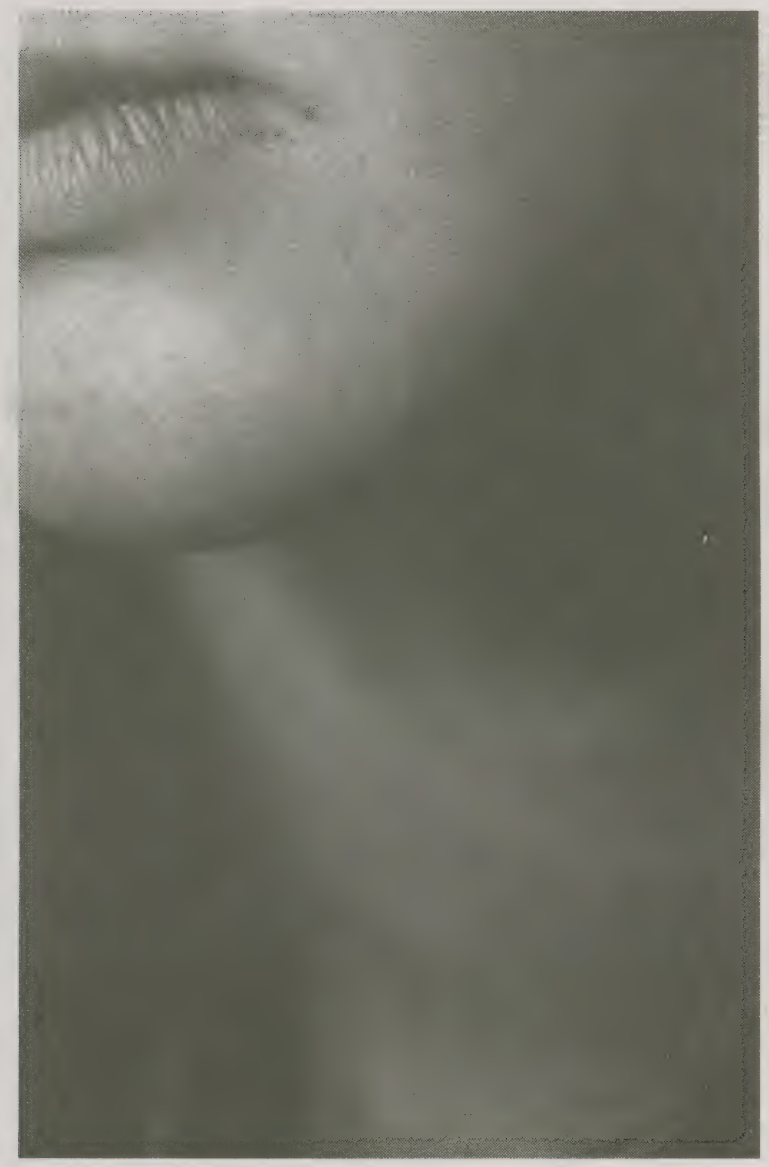
UVic deer
Photo by Melissa Hurston

A magical, mystical world inhabited by nature's creatures awaits you at UVic. All you need is to take a step outside the Ring.

Mercado

Photo by Aaron Williams

"I took this photo from across the street in the artists' district of Montevideo, Uruguay, because the colours are in complete contrast to the rest of the drab greys and blacks found throughout the rest of this South American capital that has seen better days."



Untitled

Photo by Benjamin Moore

This film-shot photo gives viewers all they desire in a close-up: texture, shadow, compelling lines and arresting composition.

Marina

Photo by Christina Dhillon

"I went for a walk one night past the Oak Bay Marina and just happened to have my camera on me, thought it would make a nice shot."

Gummies

Photo by Darcy Treadwell

"While under the influence of psychedelic drugs I entered a neighbourhood 7-11 and there were bright, colourful gummy bears. They were all moving around, bumping into each other begging to be let out of the bag. I had to rescue them from the terrifying fate of a five-year-old brat, but alas I had no money. I went home and put on large sunglasses and a trench coat and stealthily returned. I ran in and I ran out. The bears had been rescued. I ended up eating most of the bag, but somehow these three survived."

AURAL AFFAIRS

Some like it hot!

Spicing up your sex life

by Jake Sandberg

This week is for those of you who want to step it up a notch. Maybe you're feeling a little experimental, or even just want to do something to keep that romance fresh. Hopefully you'll find one of these amusing if not useful.

If Snap, Crackle and Pop have taught me anything (besides that Pop is never there when you need him) it's that fizzy things are always more fun than their flat counterparts. Well with that in mind, why not invest 69 cents and grab a pack of Poprocks to entertain your man—the snap and crackle might just make that pop extra special.

It's not a guarantee for success (if he doesn't like the feeling of Poprocks in his mouth, he might not like it down south either) but the candy flavour can't be beat. Please do not try this on women. Any excitement that results will most likely be followed by a yeast infection (blame the sugar), followed by an ass-kicking for being stupid.

Feeling a little artistic, bored, or slightly devilish? Why not give fingerpainting a try. There are some really easy body paint recipes on the web. If you can't wait, try this recipe: Mix one teaspoon cornstarch with half a teaspoon of cream, stir in half a teaspoon of water and then add food colouring in the shade of your choosing.

Better yet, whip up some chocolate body paint: Simmer half a cup of heavy cream with a tablespoon of sugar and then slowly add bittersweet chocolate to desired taste. Let this one cool down a bit before use, unless you really do like it hot!

Crayons work well too; just make sure they're washable—you want something that gets slippery when it's wet, and wax doesn't fit the bill. Better yet, find some soap crayons (available in a toy store near you!). Keep in mind that this is supposed to be romantic—leave out the drawing skills that you developed on your passed-out friends. No one appreciates obviously over-sized self-portraits.

If you're tempted to do more than draw with your crayons and paint, keep in mind that many body paints are high in sugar (making them yeast-friendly) and crayons might not be non-toxic—you might want to think twice before you insert them anywhere.

When it comes time to take that body paint off, head for the water. Contrary to popular belief, water usually makes things dirtier!

But if that's what you are aiming for, then grab your partner and make for the shower, lake, bathtub, and/or hot tub. Irritation and nasty infections can result from underwater penetration, so limit yourself to foreplay when you're splashing around. Condoms also have a habit of floating off underwater, making safer sex next to impossible.

If water doesn't do it for you, try another locale. Just like real estate, it all comes down to location, location, location. On the beach, on a boat, on a table, at work, in a car, on the hood of a car, in the park, in your roommate's bed, in your parents' bed . . . if it sounds dangerous or mysterious or exciting, then go for it.

Keeping things hot between you and your partner is an important part of a relationship. Dull and predictable might do for your chemistry prof's lectures, but relationships are supposed to be exciting adventures, with twists and turns. It's only natural that relationships change, but the giddy, lustful feelings don't need to fade.

If anything, long-term lovers are in a better position to try something new, something bold, something that would probably have gotten you in trouble if you tried it on the first date.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Taste the explosion. Pop the candy—and him—into your mouth for a new pleasure sensation.

Tourists get starry-eyed

by Mike Vasilev

In 2001 the International Space Station (ISS)—and the universe at large—received its first paying customer.

His name was Dennis Tito, and he was a 60-year-old finance guru who had come to believe that there was simply nothing left on our humble planet that he had not yet done, seen, or shot. And while he may not have had the right stuff to earn a spot with NASA as an astronaut, he did have $20 million to spend on becoming one.

According to market research, there are hundreds more like Tito, set on sightseeing outer space at any cost.

Two others have since taken the ride, and another dozen are on the waitlist. The demand is there, but so far the supply is not and the Russian space program has remained alone in this emerging market.

But opportunists have noticed this development. Among them is Microsoft's Paul Allen. Spending $24 million, he personally bankrolled the development of a reusable shuttle-like craft called SpaceShipOne. Allen's team beat out more than 20 others, including one Canadian team, to become the first in the private sector to launch a spacecraft 100 kilometres above the Earth's surface two times within two weeks, and win the $10-million Ansari X Prize.

Richard Branson, the renegade billionaire and head of the multi-million-dollar Virgin Inc., is also scrambling onto the new frontier. Branson has already incorporated the world's first interstellar airline, Virgin Galactic, and procured five orders of Allen's spaceship to get it going.

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Fly to space—for a price.

The airline will be operational by 2007, and for $200,000, you too will be able to make the three-hour trip to the edge of space to feel the joy of weightless for a full three minutes. And while "suborbital" doesn't sound as glamorous as a weeklong stay at the ISS, it is considerably cheaper and you can still safely tell the neighbours that you've been into outer space.

Not only have the mega-corporations thought of ways to shuttle you into space alive, but they also have your remains covered.

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Get kinky, *Zoolander*-style

An ode to Ben Stiller's ditzy male model, Domlander mixes kink and S&M with catwalk fashion

What: Domlander fetish fashion competition and play party
Where: Traveller's Inn – City Center, 1961 Douglas
When: Saturday, March 25, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
How much: $20 in advance, $25 at the door (for a list of vendors visit www.sagacitygroup.net)

by Briony Smith

GRAHAM STARK ILLUSTRATION

Former winners of the Domlander fashion competition include an animal-loving Little Bo Peep and a man clad entirely in items from Canadian Tire, including duct tape, rope and clamps.

It could be anyone—your boss, your professor, your Subway sandwich artist . . . even your lover. Kinksters are proliferating like mad in Victoria, but you wouldn't know it, what with so many of them remaining in the kinky closet. But on March 25, all bets are off, as eager crowds take part in Domlander, an annual fetish fashion competition and play party organized by Sagacity, an alternative lifestyles group.

Before you dismiss the event as some ultra-underground bacchanalia for Victoria's freakiest, consider that Sagacity bills itself as "the antithesis to exclusivity."

"Domlander is all about fun, for non-vanilla people and whoever else. It's a great event that helps combat the media's concept of the whole scary dom thing," says Sagacity president Ladyfish. "We don't all live in creepy dark dungeons!"

Plus, Domlander's genesis is about as threatening as a church picnic. Inspired by Ben Stiller's male-model comedy *Zoolander*, contestants don elaborate outfits and take it to the catwalk. But don't expect a monotonous PVC parade—past winners have included an elaborate Little Bo Peep (complete with her "sheepdog" and "sheep") and a man clad entirely in items from Canadian Tire, including duct tape, rope and clamps. Judges like *Monday Magazine*'s Bill Stuart and the wonderfully named Kamloops Ron grade contestants on their choice of music, originality and, of course, their ability to mimic Zoolander's "look," whether it be Blue Steel or Magnum.

Past Mr. Domlander runner-up Mathieu—whose rapid costume changes between Bill Clinton, Indiana Jones, and a swashbuckler wowed the crowd in 2003—spent years trying desperately to fit into society's sexual norm, doing the monogamous, heterosexual, non-kinky thing. "And all that repression just oozed out of me in bitter resentment," he says. "I regret all those wasted years, and I know that there are others out there who deny themselves."

Ladyfish is confident that Domlander's poking-fun factor is sure to put anyone leery of going to their first kinky event at ease, and, if they're into it, make segueing to the following play party stress-free.

Post-walk-off, a play space featuring BDSM (bondage, domination, sadism and masochism) and kink equipment and accoutrements will be set up, along with a viewers' gallery for those who just want to do the voyeur thing.

Skeevy weirdoes are weeded out promptly.

"We can smell a player—someone who just wants to watch and get off—a mile away," says Ladyfish's partner, Fisherman. "There is no penetration at the party. We want to celebrate the fun of being sexual without sex," she says. Safety is paramount, too—the event's rules are posted prominently around the venue, and Dungeon Monitors make sure everyone is getting along safely.

"You're far safer at a play party than at a bar," says Fisherman.

Newbies can ask questions of the event's Ambassador, who can also point you toward the communal toolbox in the event that you forgot—or don't own—your own flogger or rope.

Snacks will be on offer in a mingling area, where folks can chat about all things kinky. If you think you don't have anything to offer to the kinky convo, think again.

"Have you ever used a scarf to cover up a partner's eyes?" Ladyfish asks. "Have you ever held someone's hands down during sex? Or used handcuffs? Or smacked someone on the ass on the way to the kitchen? Guess what? That's kink."

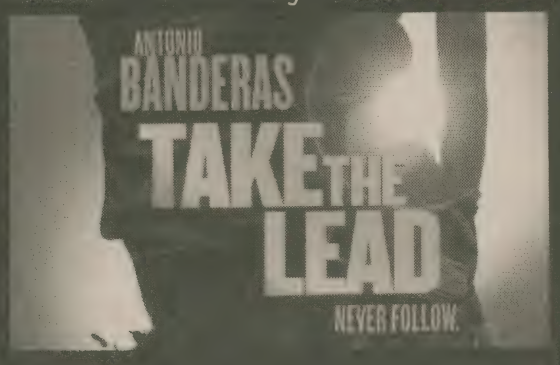
She's hoping the lighthearted feel of Domlander—which sells out lightning-fast every year—will encourage more young folks to get out there and try some Kink 101.

"We need to build a base of younger people. This generation has way less baggage and hang-ups about their bodies, their sexuality, their fetishes," she says. "We can only imagine what they could do with kink!"

Want to win a pair of tickets to see *Lucky Number Slevin* on March 27 or March 29?

Drop by the *Martlet* office (SUB B011) and tell us what *Gangster* movie cast Paul Bettany and Malcolm MacDowell as the same character.

If star-studded crime capers aren't your bag, how about *Take the Lead* on March 30? Antonio Banderas teaches hot high-schoolers how to sexy dance.



Come on by and tell us what character Banderas voiced in *Shrek 2*.

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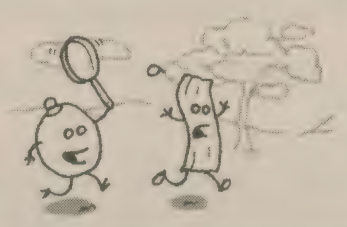
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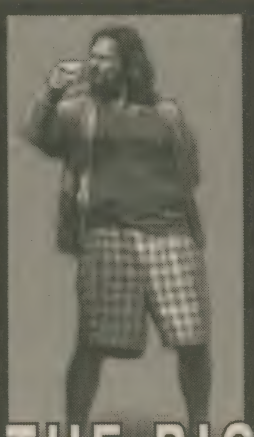
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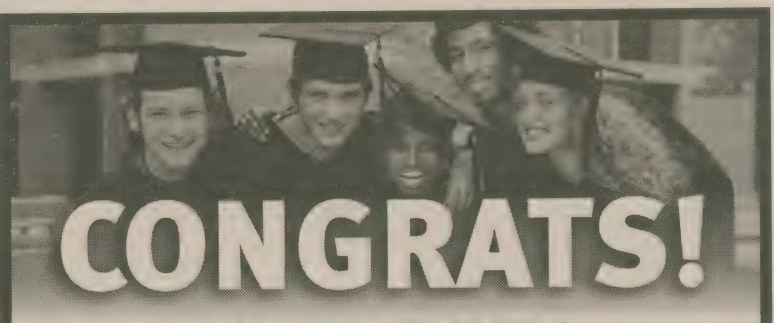
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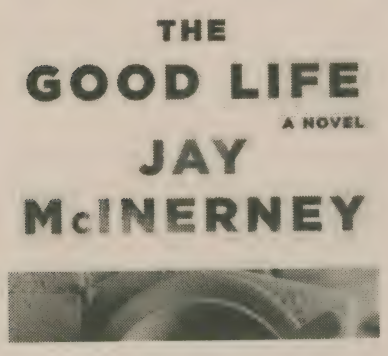
BOOK | THE GOOD LIFE



The Good Life
By Jay McInerney
Random House of Canada
353 pages, $22.95

by Briony Smith

He had me at "I'm like, I don't believe this shit."

With *Story of My Life*'s saucy first line, novelist Jay McInerney (*Bright Lights, Big City, The Last of the Savages*) earned his place as one of the few writers I've kept around over the years to read and reread.

The last 10 years, sadly, have seen an emphasis on the latter, as the man didn't publish a full-fledged novel for almost a decade. But now the wait is over—his new novel, *The Good Life*, is on store shelves.

First things first—*The Good Life* is a 9-11 novel. In a literary market glutted with what-does-it-all-mean tomes post-2001, could he make it fresh, I wondered.

In truth, *The Good Life* uses 9-11 like a piece of tissue, convenient and disposable. Yet 9-11 provides one of the most powerful backdrops to McInerney's continued exploration of the existential crises of the upper class.

The novel features the central cast of characters from *Brightness Falls*, the work McInerney considers his best. With dinner guests like Salman Rushdie, what Corrine and Russell Calloway lack in uber-funds, they make up for in cred. She is an attractive former Wall Street analyst at work on a Graham Greene screenplay adaptation, and he is a charming, well-respected book editor.

Corrine is at the heart of the story, struggling to juggle her roles as mother, wife, career woman, and hip Tribeca resident.

Her ennui deepens considerably when a couple of planes decimate a large swathe of her neighborhood. Amidst the carnage, she encounters Luke McGavock, a likeable swell who, in addition to quitting his high-powered finance job due to a case of the why-are-we-heres, missed a date with death by cancelling his breakfast at Windows on the World, a restaurant in the World Trade Center. He and Corinne have a meet-cute in the rubble and later bond over stints working the night shift at a soup kitchen chez Ground Zero.

Their personal journeys and relationship make up the bulk of the novel, but it is the peripheral characters and McInerney's zingers that stick in your mind.

Luke's wife, Sasha, with her whip of blond hair and expensive body, provides the perfect plastic counterpoint to Luke's mid-life fervour, while his mother is a warm and vibrant oasis.

McInerney writes women well. His documentation of Corinne's see-sawing emotions shows an author on top of his game, even after such a long hiatus.

In the final chapters, McInerney pulls out the big guns. While the novel passes pleasantly enough with some clever jibes at the rich and a sex scene or two, in the end you find yourself really rooting for Luke and Corrine. Finally, McInerney cuts through all the 9-11 psychobabble and existential bullshit to show the real outcome of that strange day.

When you think back through the novel, past all the hilarious wisecracks and fashionable trappings of 9-11, you can see that there was only one miserable ending possible, and McInerney makes us understand that—sadly, inexorably—it is the right one.

The Good Life it ain't, and McInerney makes us believe it.

CD | BELLE AND SEBASTIAN, THE ROBOCOP KRAUS

Belle and Sebastian
The Life Pursuit
Matador Records

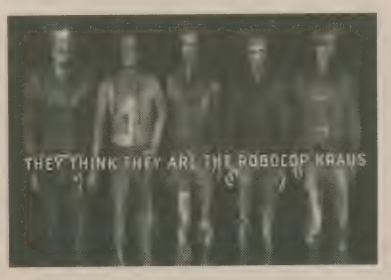
by Matt Grady

With *The Life Pursuit*, Belle and Sebastian builds upon the studio sheen and assured performances of 2003's *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*, showing off a new-found, upbeat swagger. Under the direction of Tony Hoffer—whose production credits include albums by Beck, Supergrass and Air—the Scottish players add '70s funk, soul and glam rock to their repertoire while maintaining their characteristic charm.

A highlight of any Belle and Sebastian song is Stuart Murdoch's clever verse, a collection of vignettes starring colourful characters dealing with relationships and the daily grind. *Life Pursuit*'s odd cast includes a wannabe singer, a white-collar boy on the run from the law, "Sukie In The Graveyard," and the village joke wanting acceptance.

There are a few nods to the band's folk-pop beginnings, namely "Dress Up in You" and "Mornington Crescent." But fans holding their breath for a sequel to the seminal *If You're Feeling Sinister* would be wise to accept the band's growth and development. As drummer Richard Colburn states in the fan Q&A included in the CD booklet, "Do you think and do the exact same things you did nine years ago?"

The limited deluxe edition of *Life Pursuit*, with its pseudo-storybook packaging, includes a DVD of Belle and Sebastian performing six songs to a live audience at BBC studios.



The Robocop Kraus
They Think They Are The Robocop Kraus
Epitaph

by Stephanie Glover

Imagine if Hot Hot Heat sucked more. What's that? You can't? You think they suck to the absolute limits of suckiness?

Well expand your mind for a mere moment to comprehend The Robocop Kraus.

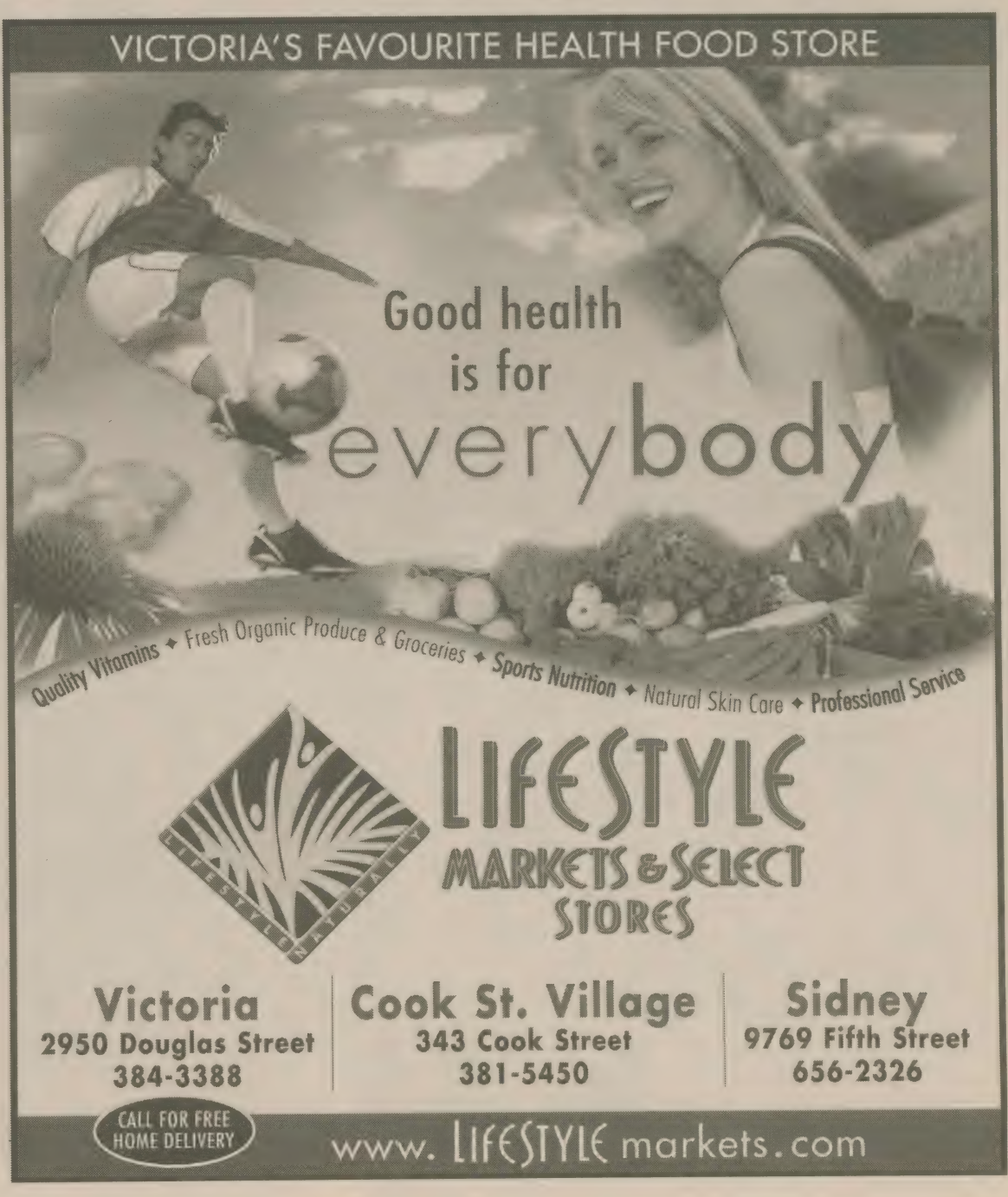
The German indie-rockers' North American debut (and fourth album), *They Think They Are The Robocop Kraus*, was recorded with Pelle Gunnerfeldt of The Hives, which lends them some instant rock-and-roll cred.

Epitaph Records ain't too shabby, either. With those credentials, I wouldn't be surprised to see them hyped as yet another Next Big Thing.

The Robocop Kraus try their damnedest to sound like Talking Heads, but guess what? Fake British accents are annoying, and we've heard just about enough Gang-of-Four influenced dance-punk fluff.

If, by chance, *you* haven't heard enough Gang of Four-influenced dance-punk fluff, you might consider giving The Robocop Kraus a shot.

But bear in mind, there are dozens of better bands doing better things with the same sound.



CDs | FIDGITAL, ROCKETFACE, EMERY, HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS

Fidgital
Vintage Red
Fidgital Digital Co.

by Wesley Scott

Christian-themed techno-jazz pop—it's a new and wholly bizarre hybrid genre that just might be a mortal sin.

Vancouver-based duo Fidgital's *Vintage Red* is a unique album worth listening to at least once. Its odd fusion of themes and genres may limit its appeal, but the disc offers a distinctive, provocative mix of sounds and styles.

If anything, *Vintage Red* is really well put together, encased in impressive anime-style artwork and jam-packed with technical goodies. It's a concept album that alludes to the Christian tales of creation, sin and salvation in three acts. However, people buy CDs for the music, not the design, and Fidgital's music could use some divine intervention.

The first track, "True Ambition" is a strong swing-styled tune pumping things up for the rest of the album. Blaring trumpets and vocals reminiscent of Freddy Mercury are nicely supported by piano, bass and deep horns. From there, the disc meanders off into drawn-out mediocre electronica and lounge music. Things pick up near the end with the distorted Latin jazz of "We Are Sex Bucket" and the Indian-style of "One Shot At Heaven." It all sounds carefully composed and polished, but the heavy and abrupt use of electric keyboard gets repetitive and rather annoying.

Vintage Red's Christian themes and experimental sound may narrow its audience to a select (and rather strange) few, but if it isn't always an enjoyable disc, it's sure as hell original.

Rocketface
Rocketface
Universal

by Adrienne Ewart

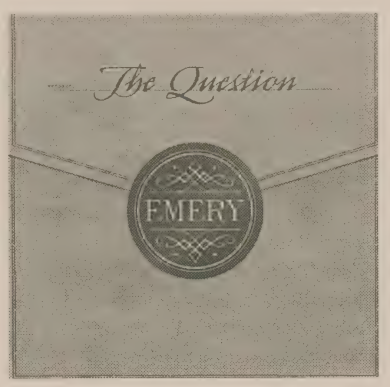
Who needs a singer when you've got a drummer? We saw it first on the Canadian rock scene with Death From Above 1979, but it's still a noticeable peculiarity.

Rocketface singer/drummer Joe Janisse, seen at live shows with his kit on a riser right at the lip of the stage, has a fantastic voice. It's strong and resounding and floats above the music with the occasional rock-and-roll sneer thrown in for good measure.

David Markham handles the bass while Ray Zilli plays an energetic guitar, churning out rare and fleeting solos. The Toronto-based trio have been writing and playing together off and on since their high school days in Windsor, Ont. The rock-meets-soul essence of Detroit seems to have drifted across the border and into their music.

The disc offers up two distinct sounds, reflected almost as much in the titles as in the music itself. There's no-nonsense, tough, rhythm-heavy rock (like the current single "Dirty") and more soulful, melodic fare ("To Take You Home"), in which the influence of Pink Floyd and Radiohead can clearly be heard.

It's an odd contrast, and two sounds in 12 tracks may not seem like much, but the disc works as a straight-up rock-and-roll record with a few pleasant innovations.



Emery
The Question
Tooth & Nail

by Tori Wong-Rose

Two years ago, Emery floored fans with their debut, *The Weak's End*. With *The Question*, the band's second release, they've crafted a stronger and more diverse album.

The Christian six-piece proves that they're different from so many screamo bands, who carry the same sound unaltered from album to album.

The Weak's End was packed with the genre's typical heavy, heart-wrenching songs, and Emery has stayed true to their sound by simply improving it—it's catchier, stronger and more focused. They've matured, transcending the genre with an album that balances fierce screaming with meaningful melodic vocals.

The Question's opener, "So Cold I Could See My Breath," gives listeners a taste of the band's originality. The quickly changing tempo is complemented by an intense chorus. Everything fits together, from the driving bass-and-drum rhythm to the ripping guitars. This perfectly executed song sets the tone for the entire album.

The band has said they have few, if any, musical influences, but it's hard to ignore the similarities between Emery and bands like Thursday, one of Victory Records' hardcore progeny. However, songs like "Listening to Freddy Mercury" show Emery's unique, undeniable talent for fusing hardcore screaming with classic, upbeat rock.

In a genre overflowing with indistinct aggression, Emery has set themselves apart with a mixture of vocal styles and uncommon influences. A solid sophomore effort, *The Question* hasn't got much to answer for.

Hawthorne Heights
If Only You Were Lonely
Victory Records

by Kevin Ehman

Even your metalhead older brother who thinks emo is for artsy losers probably loved Hawthorne Heights' first album, *The Silence in Black and White*. But in this age of carbon-copy angst-ridden screamo bands, it takes more than good production and songwriting to stand out from the crowd. That's why the group's new disc, *If Only You Were Lonely*, doesn't push HH past their peers, simply because reinvention isn't even on the radar.

The first six tracks could all be bonafide singles. The opener, "This Is Who We Are," is a shining example of the formula HH has perfected. With soothing melodies from lead singer JT Woodruff offset by surgical screams from guitarist Casey Calvert, the song goes right for the heart.

Track four, "Pens and Needles," has the same effect, with savage breakdowns and soft crooning working in flawless unison. Unfortunately, these are the album's few standout moments. The rest of the disc veers into repetitive emoting, as the only subject material Woodruff seems to write about is love, lost love, and the pain associated with both. A lack of diversity in lyrics and song structure nearly sinks this otherwise solid album.

If Hawthorne Heights avoided the sophomore slump, it was only by the skin of their teeth. *If Only You Were Lonely* sees them hanging on for the ride instead of grabbing the reins and taking hardcore in a new direction.

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UVic writers kick off *This Side of West*

The Writing Student Union's artistic anthology and 'yearbook' hits store shelves this April

What: *This Side of West* 2006 Launch Party
Where: Lucky Bar, 517 Yates
When: Saturday, March 25 @ 7 p.m.
How Much: $5 at door (with purchase of a book), $7 without

by Micah Luxen

For new writers, getting published can be a daunting task. But university is a place where even inexperienced talent has the chance to make its mark.

An annual UVic publication since 1971, *This Side of West*—formerly *The Inner Harbour Review*—has printed hundreds of student works in an anthology exclusive to UVic. The book incorporates poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama and visual art, all printed on recycled paper.

"I don't think our mandate is to make a best-selling book," says editor-in-chief Danielle Janess. "We're just trying to get together and help each other. But on the other hand, we're definitely looking for something that we can be proud of and something that the writers can use for their portfolios."

Getting published also helps to give students the confidence to keep writing and submitting works for publication.

"I think, like any art, you're looking for some kind of validation, especially in third or fourth year," says *TSoW* contributor and fourth-year writing student Marjorie Celona. "You're wondering, am I just wasting my time? Because, there's a moment when you're not sure if you're ever going to get published, and maybe you'll just end up sitting in a little room somewhere, and nobody's ever going to read what you write."

Every year, *This Side of West* advertises for submissions around UVic and, once the papers are anonymized for selection, editorial boards choose which pieces they like the best. Students from many faculties are published, and a handful of UVic's diverse perspectives are combined in one attractive anthology.

"I heard somebody say once that *This Side of West* is a yearbook, and I think that's really accurate," says Janess. "I think it gives [writers] a sense of place, too—you connect with you own community here [at UVic]."

But the anthology will soon escape the confines of the Garden City. Chapters' national shelves may soon be carrying the anthology, and even famed Canadian author Margaret Atwood has a copy.

"I had the pleasure of giving Margaret Atwood a copy when she was in town, and she was thrilled. She was like, 'That's so nice. Nobody ever gives me anything,' and she really gave me the impression that she was going to read it," says Janess.

This year's anthology will launch on March 25 at Lucky Bar. Hosted by writer Bill Gaston, the evening will feature readings by nine contributors, and musical guests World's Fattest Racehorse and The Greatest Explorers in the World.

PROVIDED IMAGE

***This Side of West* may soon be sold by book giant Chapters, as well as smaller, independent retailers.**

THEATRE | TYRANTS

Talky *Tyrants* makes for an entertaining history lesson

What: *Tyrants*, by Jacob Richmond and Paul Ledoux
Where: UVic Phoenix Theatres (www.phoenixtheatres.ca)
When: March 16–April 1, 2006
How much: $10 to $20, call 721-8000

by Steve Carey

Imagine a well-to-do American theatrical family arguing about politics during the Civil War. One son is a unionist, one son is a confederate, the third is on the fence, and they're all rehearsing for a play—*Julius Caesar*. And, in case you hadn't heard, one of the boys is John Wilkes Booth, the assassin who capped Abraham Lincoln in the melon during a performance of yet another play, *Our American Cousin*.

Throw a few skeletons in the closet, give the family a mother with nurturing problems, mix in some incestuous undertones and you've got Jacob Richmond and Paul Ledoux's *Tyrants*.

The latest from UVic's Phoenix Theatre, *Tyrants* allows the audience to experience 1860s theatre and offers different viewpoints about the Civil War. Intriguing insights into the characters of Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth help muddy the waters, as do comments on black slavery and incest.

Carey Wass plays a convincing and humanized John Wilkes, portraying him as a man of action caught between his acting life and stopping Lincoln from destroying the America he loves.

Trevor Hinton is a commanding Edwin, even when confronted by ghosts, eerie banjo music and visions of the past and future. Victor Dolhai does well jaunting around as the ignored Junius Jr., who, although not a main character, has a personal back-story presented through the play.

Retired UVic professor John Krich makes the stage crackle with energy, which is hard to achieve in such a dialogue-heavy production. He plays the ghost of Junius Brutus Booth Sr., one of the play's strangest and most memorable characters.

The first act doesn't allow the audience to forget they're watching a political play. The Booth brothers repeatedly note the similarity between *Julius Caesar* and John Wilkes' hatred of the Union by arguing about the roles of Brutus and Marcus in Shakespeare's drama.

John Wilkes's dying words—"useless, useless"—are repeated throughout the play but only explained in the last few moments before the movie-style fade-to-black ending, which was rather anti-climactic for a play of this scale.

Éva Markvoort does a great job in the tough role of Asia Booth, sister and die-hard supporter of John Wilkes. The part itself involves a bit of antique sister-loving, which caused a few audience members to chuckle, but Markvoort didn't crack.

The costumes are excellent, the large rotating stage is used effectively to display different perspectives of the set of Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre, and the set decorations are ornate and convincingly detailed. The fight scenes are also well choreographed, providing some much-needed action, albeit near the end of the play.

Tyrants is a complex and ambitious play exploring the turbulent lives of a very troubled family. It does not show the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, but rather focuses on the genesis of drama—both the familial and theatrical varieties. This premiere production of *Tyrants* is an excellent accomplishment for the many students involved.

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

Carey Wass (left) and Éva Markvoort get incestastic in Tyrants.

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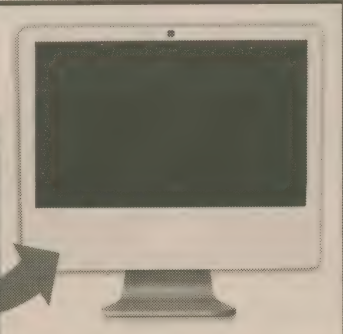

Vikes fall prey to Ravens dynasty

Vikes leave with silver medal while University of Carlton claims McGee Trophy for fourth consecutive year

by Megan Stewart

If second place is only a consolation prize, the Vikes' 73–67 loss to the Carleton University Ravens in the national college final has a silver lining.

UVic played well, and Carleton not only boasts the league's player of the year on its roster, but going into the March 19 final already had the past three Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships to its name.

Vikes head coach Craig Beaucamp said his team came up short in the fourth quarter and that one of their key shortfalls came in failing to slow the Raven's six-foot guard Osvaldo Jeanty, the league's most valuable player.

"Down the stretch we just couldn't get a key stop when we needed it," he said. "We got back within two, we got but within one, but Os [Jeanty] hit a shot in the corner and Ryan [Bell] hit one from the lane. We needed to stop them."

Ravens head coach Dave Smart had a specific concern of his own—one that was never realized.

"I wasn't afraid of losing," he told a CanWest sports reporter after the game. "I was afraid of getting blown out."

Smart coached his team to their fourth national title in as many years, edging the Vikes out by six points.

The match got off to a quick start with Jeanty knocking back seven of the Raven's first nine points and Carleton opened with a slight 9–7 margin.

In the opening minutes, Brandon Ellis sunk two three-point shots and provided the game's highlights for the Vikes. One of UVic's best offensive players throughout the playoffs, Ellis was the top-scoring Vike in the quarterfinal win (24 points against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies) and in the semifinal win (18 points against the Saint Francis Xavier X-Men).

CIS rookie of the year Jacob Doerksen put up 14 first-half points for the Vikes, but with 18 points from Jeanty, the Ravens built a 19-point spread. The Vikes managed to cut back the lead slightly and trailed 41–30 at the buzzer.

The Vikes changed their defensive strategy after the break and edged within four points of the Ravens.

The Vikes would never lead in the game, and with the McGee Trophy on the line closed the gap to one point at 54–53 with five minutes on the clock. After Jeanty hit a clutch shot from outside the arc, the Vikes were unable to regain their momentum and went down to the Ravens 73–67 for the CIS silver medal.

Doerksen had 22 points and six boards for the Vikes. Ellis marked 15 points, and fifth-year starting guard Chris Trumpy netted 11 points, six assists and five boards in his final outing with the Vikes.

UVic is the most decorated program in CIS men's basketball history, with eight McGee Trophies under their belt. The team also holds the CIS record for consecutive wins for its seven-championship streak from 1980 to 1986. The Vikes last championship win came in the 1996–97 season.

NICK PEARCE PHOTOS

Above: Chris Trumpy (#12) fixes his eyse on CIS player of the year, Osvaldo Jeanty. Trump played his last varsity game with the Vikes in the team's silver-medal showing.

Right: Steve Moore (#32) drives to the hoop for two.

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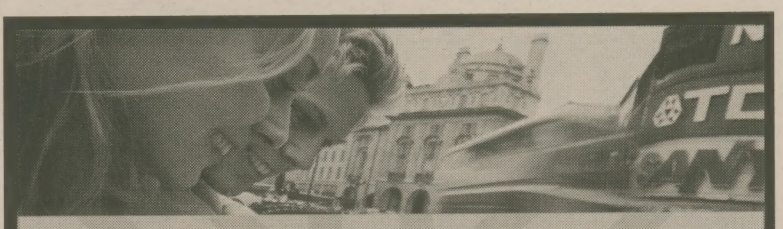

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THE UNUSUAL SIDE OF SPORTS

Visiting the Outback? Take your iron

The Extreme Ironing Bureau—yes, there is such a thing—estimates 1,000 people worldwide take part in the 'danger sport' of visiting remote locations with an iron

by David Karp

Who knew ironing could be so much fun?

For the person who finds getting the wrinkles out of a dress shirt just a tad mundane, there is an adventure sport: It's called extreme ironing.

According to the Extreme Ironing Bureau (EIB), the international governing body for the sport, extreme ironing is "the latest danger sport that combines the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well pressed shirt."

"[It] involves taking an iron and board (if possible) to remote locations and ironing a few items of laundry. This can involve ironing on a mountainside, preferably on a difficult climb, or taking an iron skiing, snowboarding or canoeing."

The sport first gained heat in England nearly a decade ago when Phil "Steam" Shaw returned home from work to a pile of ironing. There was one problem—Shaw didn't feel like ironing. In fact, he felt like rock climbing.

So Shaw ended up doing both at the same time, and extreme ironing was born.

The EIB estimates 1,000 extreme ironers worldwide take part in the sport. They take their wrinkled clothes and ironing boards with them as they climb trees and mountains, hang upside-down over cliffs and dive underwater. If no electrical outlet is available, extreme ironers depend on batteries or accept the reality of an imperfectly pressed garment.

Steve "Vertical Steam Setting" Jolly is one of them. The 28-year-old from London, England, took his extreme ironing skills to the Canadian Rockies in February 2003. "It so happened that I and a couple of extreme-ironing friends were going to a physics conference at Lake Louise," said Jolly in an e-mail interview. "Obviously we took an iron with us."

Jolly, a physicist dabbling in engineering research, and his friends managed to tear themselves away from subatomic physics to do some hardcore ironing. He speculated on the possibility that physicists tend to be open-minded and perhaps more likely to experiment with new activities. "That's probably bollocks, though," he added.

"I personally enjoy the extra dimension that ironing adds to sports," he explained. "You may be beaten to the summit of your mountain by two parties of Japanese tourists and a dog, but at least you remembered the iron."

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Melanie "Bricks are my Bitches" Greene could start an inner-city trend of extreme ironing with this stunt near Vancouver Street.

During his week in the Rockies, Jolly extreme-ironed, skied and snowboarded. Luckily, he had his iron handy to smooth away the wrinkles on his driver's license after it fell in the North Saskatchewan River.

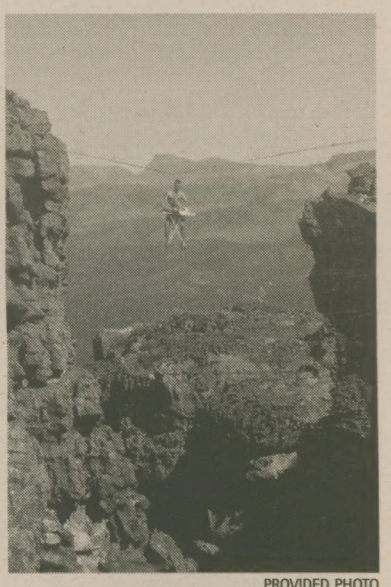
Jolly and his friends also invented a new variation of extreme ironing—something they call the Iron Tow. "It's easy," he insisted. "All you need is a car, preferably a [rental] car, an iron and a snowy road.

"Slam the [trunk] shut on the plug of the iron—British irons are better here [as] they have larger plugs—hold on to the handle and get a friend to drive off while you hang on." Bonus points for people who can iron on steep slopes.

Like any innovation, extreme ironing has inspired a number of copycat activities. Arnold Chiswick started extreme accounting in 2004 when he took his taxes on a skydiving freefall. Now the sport features its own video game and is mounting an Olympic bid—although, according to Chiswick's website (www.extreme-accounting.com), no one else has joined his movement.

Extreme ironing, on the other hand, has inspired merchandising. Taiwanese director Yun Chan "Robin" Lee is currently working on a made-for-TV movie about extreme ironing, but the project won't be the first—the British Ironing Under the Sky and the German Have Fun/Look Tidy, have already filmed the neophyte sport, and there are also books and calendars on the topic.

Like any sport, extreme ironing has its controversies. A group of 70 Australians claimed they set the world record for underwater extreme ironing in 2005. While Guinness recognizes the group, the EIB doesn't honour the claim because the Aussies were in a swimming pool. "The record cannot be validated as an 'extreme' ironing record as the participants were ironing indoors," said the bureau in a statement.



PROVIDED PHOTO

An ironing buff at Wolfberg Cracks, South Africa.

While some argue extreme ironing is just a fad, Jolly doesn't plan to throw in the towel any time soon. "I don't think you ever hang up your iron," he said.

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A fantasy roster for big-league dreamers

Sport fans play at being owner, GM and coach with star players signed to win online hockey

by Thomas Sluchinski

A long time ago, in a dark, pre-Internet age, groups of hockey-loving friends began hockey pools. They tested their knowledge of the game and the players they cheered for.

Often they chose 10 forwards and six defencemen—choices made over a few hours that they would have to live with all season. The draft was slow and tedious—a misstep here would be fatal the rest of the year. Afterwards, while comparing rosters, predictions of glory and failure circled the room. At the end of the season they totalled the scores and crowned a league champion.

Today, however, instead of merely drafting players at the beginning of the season, a fantasy member is at once owner, general manager and coach.

Wannabe big leaguers must create or choose a host site. Some of the choices include TSN.ca, Sportsnet.ca, ESPN.com, CBS SportsLine.com, and SportingNews.com. A major site for pro hockey, NHL.com, offers six variations of fantasy hockey.

New York Islanders fan Patrick DeKenipp and seven of his friends began the Ogie Ogilthorpe Fantasy Hockey League (OOFHL) in 1998 to challenge their hockey managerial skills, and each member runs their franchise as if it were a real team.

The Net has made all of this possible for DeKenipp and the OOFHL. "[Being] online was the easiest way to communicate with the owners who were based in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," he said.

And for Greg Laface, a "disgruntled Bruins fan" who hosts his league, the Elrose Aces, on FantasySports.yahoo.com, the web means members in Victoria, Saskatoon, and tiny Elrose, Saskatchewan can keep in touch. "Without the Internet this league would not exist," he said.

To operate a league, a designated commissioner considers its size, draft information such as roster size and positions, scoring, waiver wire and free agent regulations, trade rules and trading deadline. To keep score, commissioners can include goals, assists, plus-minus, and virtually any of the other stats that the NHL tracks. For example, every time Sidney Crosby sets up a teammate with a soft-handed assist in Pittsburgh, he also lands his fantasy owner a point.

Instead of totalling the players' points over the entire season like the old days, most fantasy sites have two teams going head-to-head each week. The on-ice performance of each team's players generates points that give a win-loss-tie score for the week. These weekly scores add up over the season and determine the league champion.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

The weekly head-to-head system has several advantages over older-style pools. It has the effect of making the games more personal (like knowing your buddy is going down badly this week) and more interactive since owners decide who to start, who to trade, and who to go after. It offers immediate gratification after a win or loss instead of waiting until the end of the season to name a champion.

Online participation in a fantasy league means the owners are responsible for the success (or not) of their team. Start an injured player and sit back to watch the results. Draft your favorite player but if need be, bench his ass and bring in a fresh face. Be mindful of the dreaded salary cap, as several fantasy sites add dimension to the game.

Even if your team is not suiting up, chances are one of your rival teams is. Neal Sunder, a loyal Habs fan with a custom site, said the majority of leagues are active every night. "Fantasy hockey has the effect of making all hockey more interesting," he said, adding that owners have a "vested interest" in almost every NHL and fantasy game.

Back in '86 it was cutting edge to split Gretzky's goals and assists between two teams, in effect making the league more competitive. In 2002, DeKenipp and the OOFHL began incorporating players' salaries and a salary cap into the fantasy format. "This had an immediate impact in that it freed our league from being tied to roster limits—teams could now trade three middle players for a star," reported DeKenipp.

The OOFHL was three years ahead of the NHL with this move directed at creating competition. With fantasy hockey online and its members gaining commissioner-like skills with each shorthanded point and plus-minus, NHL commish Gary Bettman better watch his back.

STICK DOWN, GLOVES OFF

The *Slap Shot*-inspired Ogie Ogilthorpe Fantasy Hockey League (OOFHL) at http://ogie.myfantasyhockey.com is a custom league that has been running and awarding the Ogie Cup since 1999.

The site has all the past seasons archived, and before the trade deadline the tracker said that the Swamp Boys had claimed Henrik Sedin, and that the Reservoir Dogs traded their 2006 fourth-round draft pick for Kari Lehtonen.

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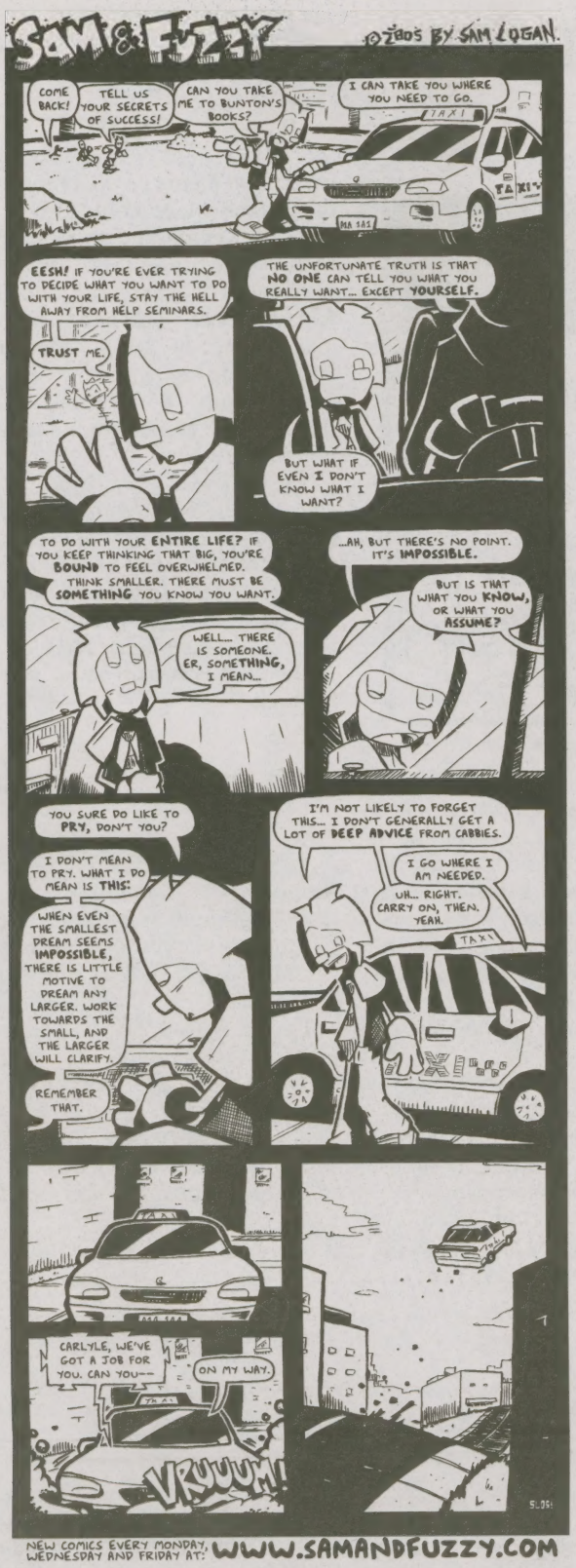
How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a tree falls in the forest while one hand claps?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TO DO WITH YOUR ENTIRE LIFE? IF YOU KEEP THINKING THAT BIG, YOU'RE BOUND TO FEEL OVERWHELMED. THINK SMALLER. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU KNOW YOU WANT.
WELL... THERE IS SOMEONE. ER, SOMETHING, I MEAN...
...AH, BUT THERE'S NO POINT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IS THAT WHAT YOU KNOW, OR WHAT YOU ASSUME?
YOU SURE DO LIKE TO PRY, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T MEAN TO PRY. WHAT I DO MEAN IS THIS:
WHEN EVEN THE SMALLEST DREAM SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, THERE IS LITTLE MOTIVE TO DREAM ANY LARGER. WORK TOWARDS THE SMALL, AND THE LARGER WILL CLARIFY.
REMEMBER THAT.
I'M NOT LIKELY TO FORGET THIS... I DON'T GENERALLY GET A LOT OF DEEP ADVICE FROM CABBIES.
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UH... RIGHT. CARRY ON, THEN. YEAH.
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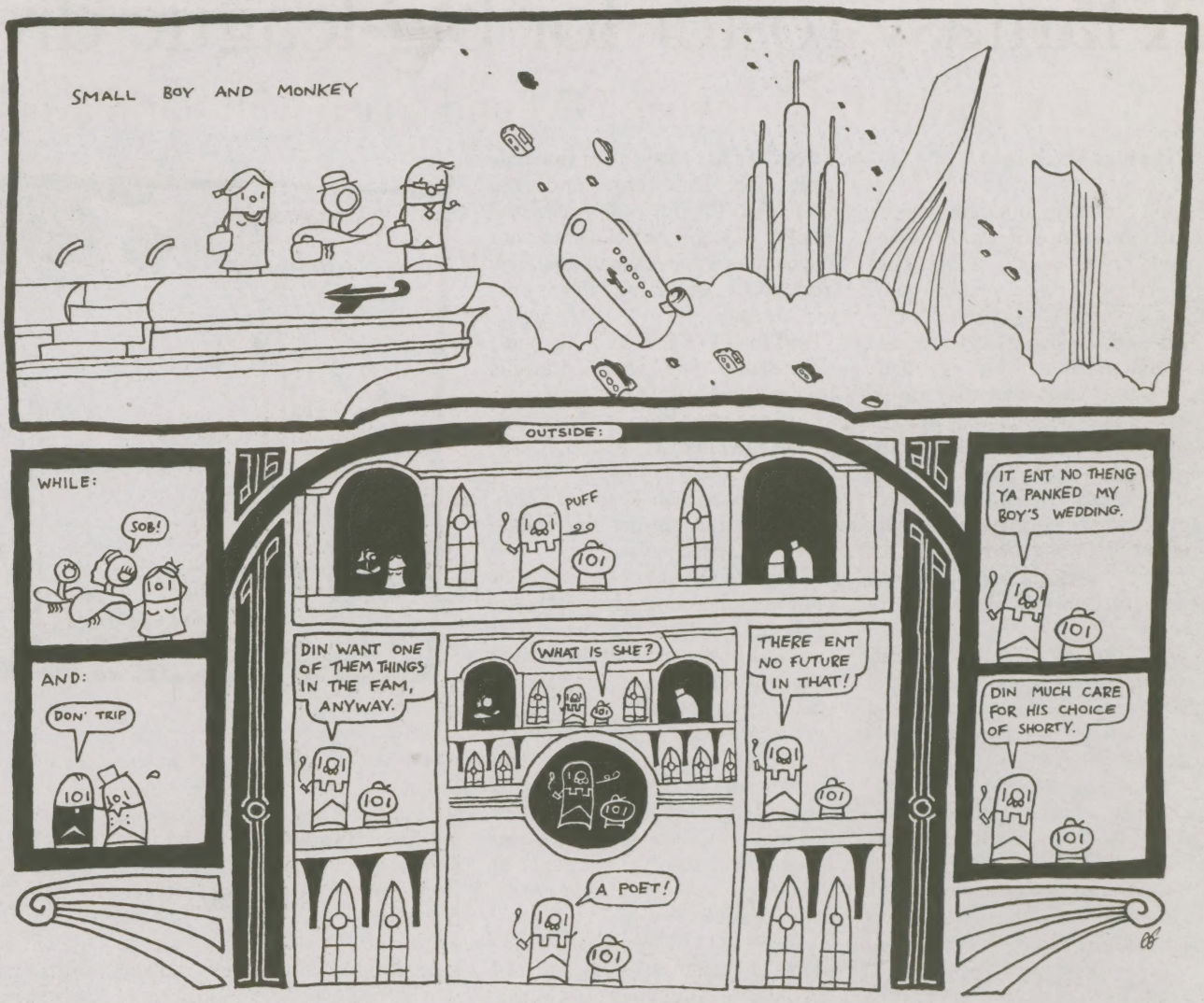
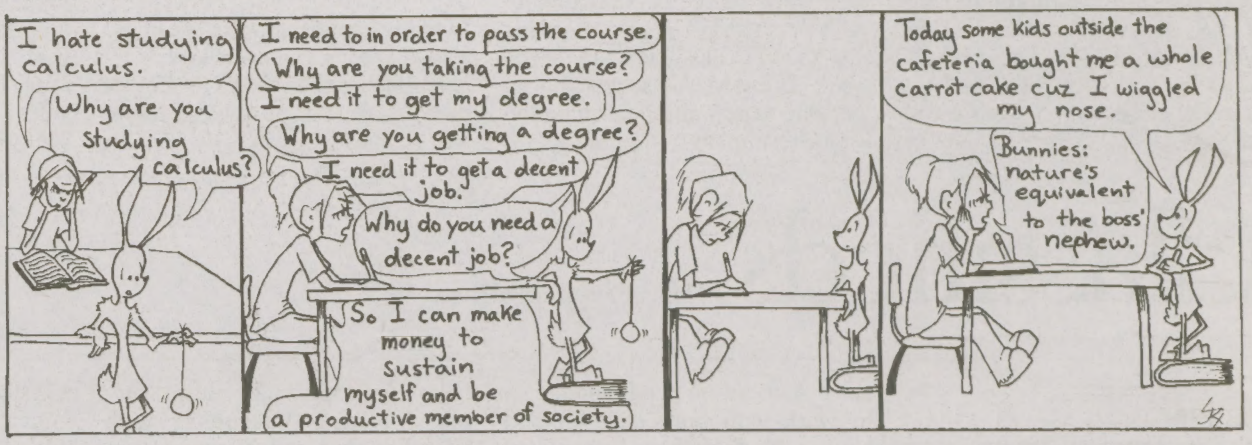
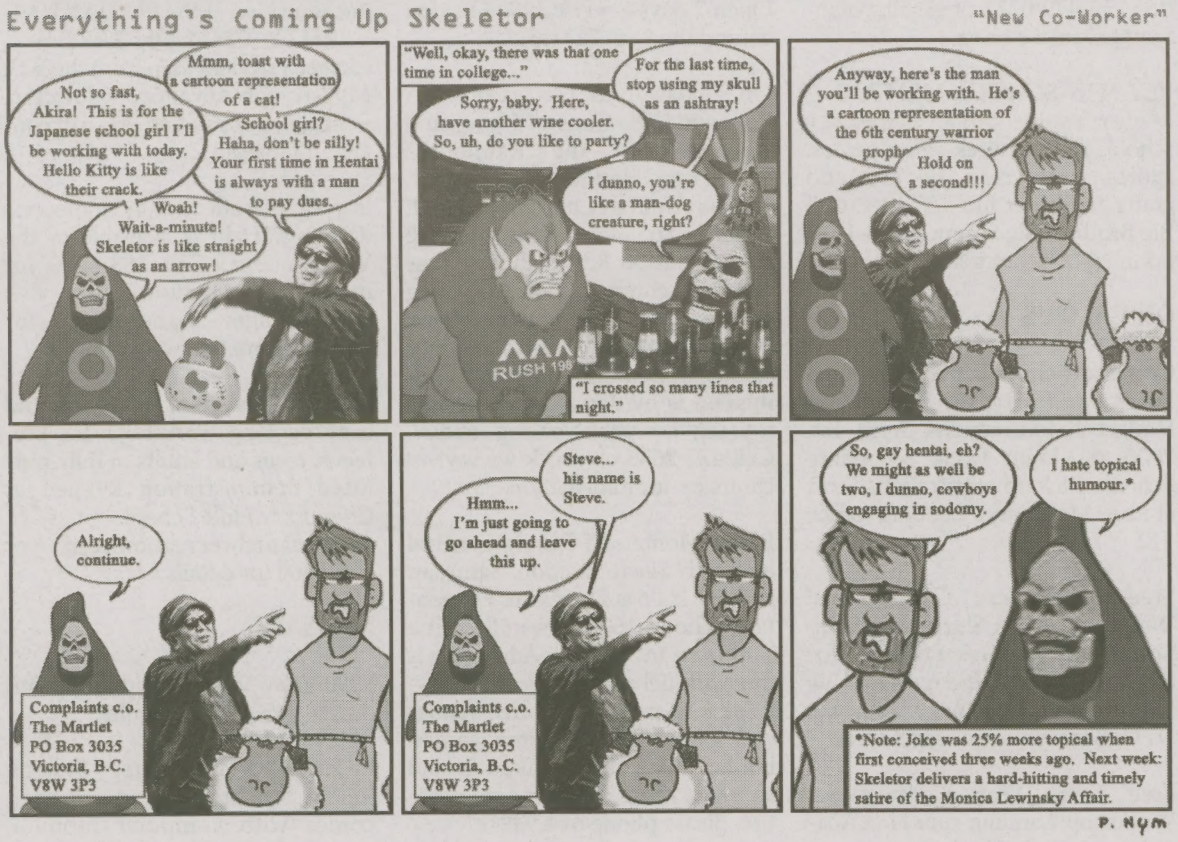


Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo


I hate studying calculus.
Why are you studying calculus?
I need to in order to pass the course.
Why are you taking the course?
I need it to get my degree.
Why are you getting a degree?
I need it to get a decent job.
Why do you need a decent job?
So I can make money to sustain myself and be a productive member of society.
Today some kids outside the cafeteria bought me a whole carrot cake cuz I wiggled my nose.
Bunnies: nature's equivalent to the boss' nephew.

Everything's Coming Up Skeletor — "New Co-Worker"


Mmm, toast with a cartoon representation of a cat!
Not so fast, Akira! This is for the Japanese school girl I'll be working with today. Hello Kitty is like their crack.
School girl? Haha, don't be silly! Your first time in Hentai is always with a man to pay dues.
Woah! Wait-a-minute! Skeletor is like straight as an arrow!
"Well, okay, there was that one time in college..."
For the last time, stop using my skull as an ashtray!
Sorry, baby. Here, have another wine cooler. So, uh, do you like to party?
I dunno, you're like a man-dog creature, right?
"I crossed so many lines that night."
Anyway, here's the man you'll be working with. He's a cartoon representation of the 6th century warrior proph
Hold on a second!!!
Alright, continue.
Hmm... I'm just going to go ahead and leave this up.
Steve... his name is Steve.
So, gay hentai, eh? We might as well be two, I dunno, cowboys engaging in sodomy.
I hate topical humour.*
Complaints c.o. The Martlet PO Box 3035 Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P3
*Note: Joke was 25% more topical when first conceived three weeks ago. Next week: Skeletor delivers a hard-hitting and timely satire of the Monica Lewinsky Affair.
P. Nym

This is the comics page

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